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# *THE IMPACT OF WORLD WAR II ON THE PASCAGOULA AREA*

## *A Study of Economic Change*

by

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(NOTE: The following article is a portion of a dissertation prepared by Dr. Kelley in connection with his doctoral work at Vanderbilt University. The complete study covers the economic impact of World War II on the entire Southeastern United States.)

### i. Size and location

The Pascagoula Labor Market Area was defined by the United States Employment Service as Jackson County, Mississippi.[1] It lies in the southeastern corner of the State, adjacent to Mobile County, Alabama. Pascagoula, the county seat of Jackson County and the largest town in the area, is situated on the Gulf coast, at the eastern edge of a tidal marshland through which the Pascagoula River flows in several inter-connecting channels. Just two miles north, where the Escatawpa River flows into the Pascagoula, is the town of Moss Point, the next largest town in the area.[2]

The Employment and Occupational Outlook Branch of the Bureau of Labor Statistics also defined the Pascagoula Industrial Area as Jackson County.[3]

### ii. Economic characteristics

Pascagoula has long been an industrial center in an agricultural state. With an excellent natural harbor, it had a shipbuilding industry as early as 1838. In the pre-Civil War days, the town shared in the Gulf Coast resort trade with a three-story, one-thousand-guest hotel serviced by a staff of slaves.[4]

Shortly after the Civil War, the manufacture of yellow pine lumber became the dominant feature of the economy of the area. The logs were cut in the hinterland and floated down the Pascagoula and Escatawpa Rivers to Moss Point where, by 1880, there were nine sawmills with a total daily capacity of half a billion board feet. Shipment of the finished lumber resulted in a considerable increase in the boat-building industry, in the construction of tugs and barges for the lightering companies that hauled lumber to oceangoing vessels lying in the Horn Island anchorage. By 1900 the Moss Point mills had further increased their capacity, but the rapid cutting and a severe storm in 1906 brought about a rapid drop in merchantable trees in the supply territory, with a consequent decline in employment at the mills.[5]

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1 U. S. Employment Service, "Labor Market Survey of the Pascagoula, Mississippi Area, March 18, 1941." (Jackson, Mississippi Employment Service, Division of Reports and Analysis), p. 1.
2 Roger A. Prior, Urban Land Use Along Mississippi Sound, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1947), p. 25 and figure 1.
3 U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "The Pascagoula Shipbuilding Area," Industrial Area Statistical Summary No. 4 (Washington: August, 1943), p. 1
4 Harry Hewes, "War Boom Town Refuses to Become A Ghost Town," American City, LX (July, 1945), 87
5 Prior, op. cit., 166, 169, 170.

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In 1910 a local corporation headed by the owner of the largest lumber mill built a paper mill at the eastern edge of the town to process the large amounts of sawmill waste.[6] This and the World War I shipbuilding boom more than off-set the decline in the lumber industry, and by 1920 several thousand men were employed building steel cargo vessels in Pascagoula and wooden ones in Moss Point.[7] The population of Jackson County, which had declined slightly in the first decade after 1900, increased rapidly in the second.[8]

The passing of the shipbuilding boom and the continued decline of the lumber industry left little beside the paper mill in the two towns and a precarious, subsistence type farming in the hinterland. Employment in ship and boat repair was soon down to only a few hundred, and the population of the county went into another decline.[9]

Two seafood canning plants were established in Pascagoula in the middle twenties, but closed down in the depression after reaching a peak employment of nearly one thousand.[10] From 1929 to 1933 manufacturing employment in Jackson County followed the same downward course as employment throughout the country, but increased rapidly after that with the establishment of several new plants under the "Balance Agriculture with Industry" program authorized by the Mississippi Industrial Act of 1936. This act provided the machinery for a rather socialistic venture of the county governments into branches of industry commonly reserved for private enterprise. However, it was so administered as to provide only for public subsidies of private plants through the construction of factory buildings at the expense of the counties and exemption of the tenant firms from several state and local taxes.[11]

The largest of the new plants was owned by a firm that had operated a shipyard on a leased site near Mobile for some years, constructing welded steel barges. In 1938 it was decided to move to another site, and Pascagoula was chosen, partly because of its natural deepwater channel which was wide enough to permit the endwise launching of the largest vessels. Under the provisions of the Mississippi Industrial Act, the county government issued one hundred thousand dollars in four and one-half per cent, twenty-five year bonds and devoted the proceeds to improving the shipyard site and clearing the title, which was then conveyed to the operating firm. Four shipways were constructed in 1939, and a thousand production workers were soon assembling the first all-welded steel ships in the United States from prefabricated sections shipped by rail from the parent plant at Birmingham. The shipyard disbursed thirty-four million dollars in wages in the first four years of operation.[12]

Other Jackson County appropriations were used to provide factory buildings and other facilities for a large knitting mill, several wood products factories, and a fish oil plant. The first was located in the unincorporated area lying between the two towns, and the last one on a made site in the marshland west of the river.[13] Also on the west bank of the river was the U. S. Government Dry Dock and Marine Repair Yards, established in 1910 to handle repair work on the government craft for the Mobile District, and employing about one hundred workmen. The wood products industry was now based largely on timber of the hardwood variety, such as oak, ash, gum, and cypress, rather than the yellow pine, which was the basis of the former lumber industry.

By 1939 the number of manufacturing wage earners in Jackson County was more than double the 1929 figure, in contrast to an absolute decline in the figure for the United States.[14] Nearly half the working population was engaged in manufacturing establishments, compared with 9 per cent in Mississippi and 23 per cent in the United States. Forty-five per cent of these were making paper and other wood products, 30 per cent were in the shipyards, and 18 per cent were in textile plants. Twenty-eight per cent of the women of working age were in the labor force, compared with 25 per cent in the State and nation, and they

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6 Ibid., p. 167.
7 U. S. Employment Service, loc. cit.
8 U. S. Bureau of the Census, Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920, Population, Vol. I (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1921) p. 486.
9 U. S. Employment Service, loc. cit; U. S. Bureau of the Census, Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930, Population, Vol. I (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1931) p. 587.
10 Prior, op. cit., p. 174.
11 Ernest J. Hopkins, Mississippi's BAWI Plan, (Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, January, 1944), pp. 19,20.
12 Ibid., pp. 39, 43, 44, 57.
13 Prior, op. cit., pp. 165, 168, 171, 173.
14 U. S. Bureau of the Census, Fifteenth Census of the U. S. Manufacturers: 1929, Vol. III, (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1933) p. 260; U. S. Bureau of the Census, Sixteenth Census of the U. S.: 1940 Manufacturers, Vol. III (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1942), pp. 19, 534.



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constituted a larger proportion of the total labor force there.[15] The 1940 population was up 29 per cent from 1930 in Jackson County and 36 per cent in Pascagoula.[16]

Negroes constituted only 20 per cent of the 1940 population of Jackson County, compared with 41 per cent of the State urban and 49 per cent of the State total populations, largely because of the nonagricultural economy. They comprised 17 per cent of the population in Pascagoula and 37 per cent in Moss Point, where sawmill operations had provided them employment for many decades. Two per cent of the Pascagoula population was foreign born, compared with less than 1 per cent in Moss Point and a negligible proportion in the State.[17]

Approximately 60 per cent of the dwelling units in Jackson County in 1940 were more than twenty years old; in the town of Pascagoula, the figure was 73 per cent. In addition, 35 per cent of the dwelling units in the county were reported in need of major repairs, whereas only one in six were so reported in the United States. In spite of the greater age of its houses, only 28 per cent were reported needing major repairs in Pascagoula. The extent of overcrowding, as measured by the census standard of 1.51 or more persons per room, was around 18 per cent in Jackson County and Pascagoula, compared with 9 per cent in the United States.[18]

There was only one hospital in the county in 1940 and it had only thirty-five beds. This was an average of one and seven-tenths beds per thousand population, far below the United States Public Health Service minimum standard of four and one-half beds per thousand population.[19] There were no sewers in the town of Pascagoula. Even the commercial houses depended upon septic tanks for refuse disposal.[20]

## Civilian defense employment

In the five years following June, 1940, nearly eleven million dollars in major war facilities projects were awarded for industrial uses in Jackson County, mostly for the shipyard, and around six hundred thousand for military establishments. War supply contracts awarded through September, 1945, amounted to three hundred fifteen millions, largely for ship construction.[21]

The large shipyard found orders rapidly increasing as the nation's defense effort got under way. The Maritime Commission ordered more cargo ships and some passenger vessels, and the Navy ordered net layers, troop ships, and airoraft carriers. The smaller yards received orders for wooden barges and tugboats.[22] Existing production capacity was soon fully utilized, and the steadily rising employment impinged upon an already overcrowded community. In the latter part of 1940, the large shipbuilding firm began expanding its yard from four to eight shipways, and the Navy started construction of a housing project to provide seven hundred permanent housing units about a mile east of the shipyard.[23]

Construction employment in Jackson County jumped from an average of one hundred fifty in the fourth quarter of 1940 to over sixteen hundred in the first quarter of 1941. As the new shipways and houses were completed it gradually declined, but shipyard employment rose faster than ever and the rising flood of in-migration was soon spilling over the capacity of the newly expanded housing facilities. With the Navy and the Maritime Commission still raising the sights on ship production, a second round of housing projects was begun in the spring of 1942, consisting mostly of temporary dwellings, the largest project being one of a thousand units sponsored by the Maritime Commission.[24] Construction employment rose to an average of twenty-five hundred for the fourth quarter of 1942, and remained at a level far above that of 1940 for the remainder of the war.

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15 U. S. Bureau of the Census, Sixteenth Census of the U. S.: 1940, Population, Vol. II, Part 4 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1943), pp. 222, 228, 257; Ibid., Vol. II, Part 1, pp. 44,49.
16 Ibid., Vol. I, pp. 569, 574.
17 Ibid., Vol. II, Part 4, pp. 202, 203, 233, 298.
18 U. S. Bureau of the Census, Sixteenth Census of the U. S.: 1940, Housing, Vol. II, Part I (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1943) pp. 14, 38; Ibid., Vol. II, Part 3, pp. 800, 817.
19 Bureau of Labor Statistics, op. cit., p. 12.
20 Prior, op. cit., p. 12.
21 U. S. Bureau of the Census, County Data Book, A Supplement to the Statistical Abstract of the United States (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1947) p. 227; Bureau of Labor Statistics, op. cit., p. 8.
22 Bureau of Labor Statistics, op. cit., p. 8.
23 Ibid., p. 12; Prior, op. cit., pp. 163, 186; U. S. Employment Service, op. cit., pp. 1, 3.
24 U. S. Employment Service, "Report on Pascagoula Mississippi Area, December 10, 1942," (Jackson, Mississippi Employment Service, Division of Reports and Analysis), p. 7.



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By March, 1941, there had been considerable in-migration of skilled and semi-skilled workers and their families, but 95 per cent of the unskilled shipyard workers were from Jackson County. In addition to the in-migration, workers were commuting regularly from a forty-mile radius around Pascagoula. The stringency of the labor shortage is indicated by the fact that men were being hired up to seventy years of age in this rather strenuous occupation. The large shipyard had already instituted a regular apprentice system and was rapidly up-grading workers to fill the gaps in skilled and semi-skilled employment. It was employing Negroes as overhead cranemen, spray painters, helpers, and common laborers and using women only in clerical work. Hiring was mostly "at the gate," but some skilled workers were cleared through the United States Employment Service.[25]

The Mississippi State Division of Vocational Education was conducting two hundred and sixty-five training courses in more than fifty localities in the State, with emphasis on occupations connected with the shipbuilding industry. A vocational course in welding was added to the regular curriculum of the Pascagoula High School.[26]

At the end of 1941 trainees were moving rapidly into the shipyards from the State Vocational School classes, and the supply of trainees was thought to be sufficient in the nearby sections of Mississippi to meet all requirements. At this time the large shipyard's productive labor force was made up of approximately one semi-skilled and one unskilled to each two skilled workmen.[27]

A labor market report in the middle of 1942 estimated that repeated increases in Navy and Maritime orders would raise employment at the major shipyard to around eighty-five hundred at the beginning of the year. This was considered to be the maximum expansion possible, as there was no space available at the yard for building additional shipways. Accelerated hiring and upgrading had resulted in a local shortage of vocational trainees, and about half of the current hires were from outside the commuting area.[28]

Six months later, employment at the major yard reached ninety-five hundred, a thousand over the company's previous estimate of the limit of possible expansion. In the expansion process, local vocational trainees were hired so rapidly that two-thirds of the school training stations were left unused. Nevertheless, the shipyard had instituted a welding school, was starting electrical training courses, and had asked permission of the Maritime Commission to set up classes in shipfitting, machinist work, and sheet metal work. "Hiring at the gate" was replaced to a considerable extent by clearance through the local office of the United States Employment Service, which placed 1,230 of the 2,062 people hired there in November, 1942. The yard had begun using women in production work and was planning a campaign to enlist the wives of shipyard workers. The proportion of women in the working force rose from 1 per cent in April, 1940 to 8 per cent in December, 1942 at the shipyard, and from 6 to 10 per cent at the paper mill. Some relaxation of restrictions on the use of Negroes was reflected since twenty-five were listed as skilled and thirty-three as semi-skilled at the shipyard and two skilled and four semi-skilled at the paper mill.[29]

After a drop in 1943, shipyard employment rose to a new high of more than ten thousand in 1944 as new orders poured in. An estimated twenty-one thousand workers were employed in the Labor Market Area in June, 1944, compared with a little over six thousand in April, 1940. While employment in trade and service industries increased to meet the needs of the expanded population, that of some of the other manufacturing interests declined because of their unfavorable wage positions compared with shipbuilding. Textile mill employment was off two hundred from 1940, and numerous establishments in the lumber and timber basic products industry were curtailed or suspended entirely.[30]

The heavy in-migration into the area was now largely balanced by a heavy out-migration as housing and other community facilities remained in short supply in spite of continued new construction at a rather fast rate. New orders brought a need for a net increase of two thousand workers, but the most active recruitment efforts, including the recruitment of soldiers for part-time work in off-duty hours, could do no more than maintain the level of employment. For twelve months, prior to June, 1944, new workers were hired at an average rate of sixteen hundred

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25 U. S. Employment Service, "Labor Market Survey of the Pascagoula, Mississippi Area, March 18, 1941," (Jackson: Mississippi Employment Service, Division of Reports and Analysis), pp. 4, 5, 9, 12, 18.

26 Ibid., p. 16.

27 U. S. Employment Service, "Local Labor Market Survey, Pascagoula, Mississippi Area, December 1, 1941," (Jackson: Mississippi Employment Service, Division of Reports and Analysis), pp. 3, 7.

28 U. S. Employment Service, "Resurvey of the Employment Situation in the Pascagoula, Mississippi Area, June 1, 1942," (Jackson; Mississippi Employment Service, Division of Reports and Analysis) pp. 1, 4, 6.

29 U. S. Employment Service, "Report on Pascagoula, December 10, 1942," pp. 1, 3, 5, 6, 7,

30 U. S. Employment Service, "Brief Statement of Labor Market Conditions in the Pascagoula, Mississippi, Labor Market Area, June 22, 1944," (Jackson: Mississippi Employment Service Division of Reports and Analysis),



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TABLE I

Average Quarterly Covered Employment in Selected Industry Divisions, Jackson County, 1940 - 1945 •

| Year | Quarter | Manufacturing | Construction | Trade | Service |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1940 | 1 | 2,932 | 24 | 208 | 44 |
| | 2 | 3,230 | 41 | 174 | 38 |
| | 3 | 3,566 | 132 | 258 | 59 |
| | 4 | 3,646 | 150 | 277 | 47 |
| 1941 | 1 | 4,171 | 1,646 | 310 | 74 |
| | 2 | 4,364 | 1,069 | 362 | 113 |
| | 3 | 5,229 | 983 | 377 | 166 |
| | 4 | 5,912 | 484 | 400 | 172 |
| 1942 | 1 | 6,123 | 606 | 314 | 182 |
| | 2 | 7,570 | 1,685 | 357 | 170 |
| | 3 | 9,516 | 2,040 | 344 | 144 |
| | 4 | 10,790 | 2,499 | 393 | 160 |
| 1943 | 1 | 11,884 | 1,348 | 679 | 176 |
| | 2 | 11,894 | 863 | 932 | 256 |
| | 3 | 10,224 | 953 | 707 | 199 |
| | 4 | 11,311 | 957 | 717 | 203 |
| 1944 | 1 | 11,786 | 1,069 | 742 | 294 |
| | 2 | 11,923 | 941 | 746 | 281 |
| | 3 | 11,182 | 849 | 891 | 208 |
| | 4 | 11,165 | 1,191 | 962 | 333 |
| 1945 | 1 | 8,719 | 1,179 | 779 | 245 |
| | 2 | 7,565 | 988 | 641 | 232 |
| | 3 | 7,790 | 839 | 678 | 189 |
| | 4 | 7,295 | 672 | 670 | 208 |

•Source: Division of Research and Information, Mississippi Employment Service, Files of Covered Employment.

TABLE II

School Enrollment, Jackson County and Pascagoula, Mississippi, Compared with the State, 1939-1947.•

| | State | | Jackson County | | | Pascagoula | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| School Year | Number | Index | Number | Index | Per Cent of State | Number | Index | Per cent of State |
| 1939-1940 | 599,028 | 100 | 4,141 | 100 | .69 | 1,059 | 100 | .18 |
| 1940-1941 | 610,510 | 102 | 4,668 | 113 | .76 | 1,240 | 117 | .20 |
| 1941-1942 | 597,135 | 100 | 5,410 | 131 | .91 | 1,572 | 149 | .26 |
| 1942-1943 | 587,303 | 97 | 7,393 | 179 | 1.26 | 3,247 | 307 | .55 |
| 1943-1944 | 554,756 | 93 | 7,842 | 189 | 1.41 | 3,940 | 372 | .71 |
| 1944-1945 | 558,861 | 93 | 8,654 | 209 | 1.55 | 4,574 | 432 | .82 |
| 1945-1946 | 539,250 | 90 | 8,411 | 203 | 1.56 | 4,251 | 402 | .79 |
| 1946-1947 | 546,852 | 91 | 8,315 | 201 | 1.52 | 4,101 | 388 | .75 |

•Source: Mississippi State Department of Education, Biennial Reports



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TABLE III

Various Economic Measures, Pascagoula, 1939-1945•

| Year | Bank Debits | Money Orders Issued | Postal Receipts | Telephones in Service | Nonagricultural Placements |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1939 | $10,768,194 | $ 157,115 | $ 25,089 | 541 | 992 |
| 1940 | 12,799,646 | 241,066 | 30,251 | 682 | 409 |
| 1941 | 26,151,335 | 437,037 | 44,885 | 961 | 2,766 |
| 1942 | 45,807,391 | 1,046,457 | 73,469 | 1,376 | 5,939 |
| 1943 | 70,138,917 | 1,540,623 | 109,306 | 1,753 | 23,560 |
| 1944 | 84,837,036 | 1,594,369 | 134,387 | 1,944 | 16,176 |
| 1945 | 64,971,466 | 1,218,547 | 116,816 | 1,936 | 7,806 |

• Files of the Business Research Station, Mississippi State College



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workers a month, and an equal number were separated.[31] After that, shipyard employment declined rapidly to the end of the war, except for a slight recovery in the summer of 1945.

## Impact on community facilities

The rush of men and women to take jobs at the shipyard raised the population of Pascagoula from six thousand in 1940 to a peak of more than thirty thousand in 1944.[32] The county population rose seven thousand in the two years prior to May, 1942, and ten thousand in the subsequent eighteen months.[33]

Total employment in Jackson County rose approximately six thousand in 1940 to twenty-one thousand in 1944.[34] Unemployment insurance data indicated a greater relative increase in construction and trade employment than in manufacturing, and illustrate the accelerating rise to 1943. (See Table 1)

As early as August, 1940, a housing survey of Pascagoula showed that there were no vacancies fit for immediate occupancy, and that housing conditions in the industrial section were very unsanitary.[35] By early 1941, the growing population had overflowed into numerous trailers and tents and even several large houseboats, which were towed from other Gulf Coast towns and anchored in the Pascagoula River.[36]

New residential construction got well under way in 1941 with a large naval housing project and many privately financed structures, and it continued at a rather high level throughout the war period. More new housing units were built in the town of Pascagoula than there were in the entire county in April, 1940, an increase of 400 per cent in the town itself.[37] In addition to the more than eight hundred trailers brought into town, several hundred housing units were constructed by private capital and four thousand by federal agencies, seven hundred of the latter being permanent structures.[38] In spite of all this, the housing shortage remained acute until employment began to decline in late 1944, and was considered one of the main causes of the heavy labor turnover which plagued the shipyards in the latter part of the war.[39]

As the commuting radius expanded with the growth in employment, transportation facilities became more and more inadequate. The regular bus runs were supplemented by converted school buses and trucks, all crowded to capacity. In 1942 the Maritime Commission provided seven buses with a seating capacity of sixty-five each, which were operated on daily runs from points twenty-five to eighty-five miles distant. By far the greater part of the commuters, however, traveled in their own or their neighbor's private automobiles.[40]

The schools of the area also felt the impact of in-migration. The grammar school in Pascagoula, with a capacity of four hundred pupils, had an enrollment of seven hundred in the fall of 1941.[41] New school buildings were constructed and nursery schools were established to help draw women into the labor force, but the schools remained overcrowded. (See Table 2).

The Jackson County Hospital, which was already overcrowded in 1940, was enlarged from thirty-five to eighty beds in 1943, but hospital facilities were still far below the minimum of four and one-half beds per thousand population recommended by the United States Public Health Service.[42]

In spite of the many shortages, there was a net improvement in the sewage disposal facilities of Pascagoula, which were confined to individual septic tanks prior to the war. The first sewer lines were laid to a defense housing project in 1941, and both sanitary and storm sewers were later installed throughout the town. The sewage disposal plant was designed at first to serve a popu-

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31 U. S. Employment Service, "Industrial Characteristics of the Pascagoula, Mississippi, Labor Market Area, June 22, 1944," (Jackson: Mississippi Employment Service, Division of Reports and Analysis); "ES-270: Reports for Jackson County for the Month of September 1944," (Jackson: Mississippi Employment Service, Division of Reports and Analysis).
32 Hewes, op. cit., p. 87.
33 U. S. Bureau of the Census, County Data Book, p. 222; Bureau of Labor Statistics, op. cit., p. 1.
34 U. S. Employment Service, "Industrial Characteristics of the Pascagoula, Mississippi, Labor Market Area, June 22, 1944."
35 U. S. Employment Service, "Labor Market Survey of the Pascagoula, Mississippi Area, March 18, 1941," p. 21.
36 Ibid., p. 22.
37 "Pascagoula's Deactivated, Activated Sludge Plant," American City, LXI (August, 1946), 81
38 Hewes, op. cit., p. 87; U. S. Employment Service, "Industrial Characteristics of the Pascagoula, Mississippi, Labor Market Area, June 22, 1944."
39 U. S. Employment Service, "Industrial Characteristics of the Pascagoula, Mississippi, Labor Market Area, June 22, 1944."
40 U. S. Employment Service, "Report on Pascagoula, Mississippi, December 10, 1942," pp, 8, 9.
41 U. S. Employment Service, "Local Labor Market Survey, Pascagoula, Mississippi, Area, December, 1941," p.9.
42 U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, op. cit., p. 12.



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lation of eleven thousand, but its capacity was tripled by converting to the use of chlorine for decontamination.[43]

The rapid population increase brought an even more rapid increase in the volume of business activity in Pascagoula, as measured by a 688 per cent increase in the volume of bank debits from 1939 to 1944 and increases of 437 per cent and 915 per cent respectively in gross postal receipts and the value of money orders issued. The number of telephones in service also reached a peak in 1944 at 360 per cent of the 1939 number. Nonagricultural placements by the United States Employment Service rose to a peak in 1943 that was nearly twenty-four times the number placed in 1939. This reflected the high rate of labor turnover and the growing tendency of employers to rely on the Employment Service, as well as the increased volume of employment. (See Table 3.)

The impact of VJ Day on area employment was relatively light, because of the great decline that had already occurred since the war peak and because the major shipyard had a backlog of peacetime orders for new ships.[44] Another support for employment came from the conversion of part of the major yard's facilities to the production of diesel-powered railway locomotives.[45] At the end of the year shipbuilding employment in Jackson County, at more than five thousand, was far above the 1940 level, and other manufacturing employment was slightly above it.[46]

A year later the population of Jackson County was still more than double the 1940 level. This was also true of the volume of covered employment in 1947.[47] Among the industry dividions, the net increase from 1940 to 1947 was above that for all covered employment in the construction and service divisions and in the transportation equipment group. Covered employment in paper and food products manufacturing was also slightly above the 1940 level, but that in textile manufacturing was slightly lower.[48] The expanded volume of manufacturing employment was more concentrated in the dominant shipbuilding industry than in 1940. In view of the checkered history of that industry's level of activity in the United States, it would appear that much of the increase in volume was achieved at the price of a loss of stability in employment.

Permanent additions to Pascagoula's community facilities included seven hundred permanent-type dwelling units constructed by the Navy and several hundred more by private builders, a sewage system complete with sanitary and storm sewers and a disposal system, and several miles of additional paved streets, curbs, sidewalks, and gas and water mains. The Jackson County schools had considerably more capacity than before the war and the county hospital was more than twice its previous size.

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43 "Pascagoula's Deactivated, Activated Sludge Plant," American City, LXI (August, 1946), p. 81.
44 "The District Begins Demobilization," Monthly Review of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, XXX (August, 1945), p. 90.
45 Idem; "From Ships to Locomotives," Business Week, November 10, 1945, p. 54.
46 Division of Research and Information, Mississippi Employment Service, Files of Covered Employment.
47 "Mississippi," Sales Management, LVIII (May 10, 1947), p. 366.
48 Division of Research and Information, Mississippi Employment Service, Files of Covered Employment.


SPECIAL NOTICE

The first study in the series of research projects to be undertaken by the Social Science Research Center recently organized at Mississippi State College has now been completed and is ready for distribution. It is COUNTY FINANCES IN MISSISSIPPI, by Gordon K. Bryan, Consultant in Government for the Center and Professor of Government at the college. Copies will be mailed upon request. Please fill out the blank below if you wish a copy of this study.

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# *THE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF SOCIAL SCIENCE KNOWLEDGE*

BY

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A cartoon on the editorial page of the New York Herald Tribune in the Autumn of 1947, excited considerable comment. It showed two characters, a little genius boy named "Physical Sciences" and a big moronic boy named "Social Sciences." Physical Sciences looked like a Quiz Kid and Social Sciences seemed a fine prospect for assistant cook at a kennel cafeteria. Is the intellectual race between these two sciences as uneven as that? If one has shown definite marks of retardation while the other has moved at accelerated speed, what are the reasons or causes?

A comparison of the production and marketing of knowledge in the two fields might offer some suggestive answers. The term knowledge is used as distinct from ideas, beliefs, unverifiable predictions, etc.

Kemmerer[1] has shown five conditions which differ widely in the production of social and physical science knowledge. First, the social scientist can make few experiments. The world of people and relationships before him is his laboratory and it is impossible to manipulate and control the governing conditions for a repeat performance of the experiment. This limitation adds to the difficulty of arriving at verifiable conclusions. Second, the social scientist cannot measure the results accurately. He has no barometer, stethescope, thermometer, or minute scales that will weigh, count, or photograph such subtle phenomena as ideas, attitudes, and opinions. Statistics help, but fail to probe the inner depths of men's feelings. It is also obvious that the social scientist cannot control the conditions surrounding the experiments. The student of chemistry, for example, can place a quantity of iron fillings in a test tube, cover them with a certain amount of hydrochloric acid under controlled conditions, and be fairly confident of being able to observe and measure the results accurately. The economist cannot place the consumer in a test tube, pour a solution of lowered prices over him, and measure the results. Instead, he must rely on his observations of the consumer in the ordinary business of life, where he will react to lowered prices in some way or other, amid a welter of other influences. A further obstacle lies in the fact that the social scientist is often expected to get quick results with slow-acting social forces. As the world becomes more populous and more industrialized, the longer does it take certain social forces to make themselves felt. The longer the scientist allows for his experiment to work out, the more are extraneous factors likely to creep in; and the shorter the time he allows, the more open he is to the accusation that his experiment is not complete. Finally, the social scientist must work with people, not with inanimate objects. Moving, acting, and interacting people refuse to lie still while being counted. They may sabotage an experiment because they do not like the experimenter or the philosophy underlying the project.

Kemmerer by no means enumerates all the difficulties encountered in the production of social science knowledge. Findings are sometimes hemmed in by restraints placed upon the social scientist. Institutions usually strive to maintain the status quo. It is considered dangerous to allow certain types of social knowledge to be disseminated by such institutions. Only a few can afford the luxury of writing or teaching without regard for this conservatism. Four possible alternatives are left for the scientist. He may keep silent. He may be as noncommittal as possible and can say with conviction: "I have taught sociology for forty years, and nobody can say where I stand." He can hide behind statistics, questionnaires, and case reports, or investigate the behavior of subhumans rather than *homo sapiens*. Finally, he may take refuge in a neutral field and produce such studies as "Chinese Traits in European Culture," or "Lay Attitudes Toward Women Physicians," or "Taming the Lumberjack."

In addition, it may be pointed out that social science subject matter is

1. Donald L. Kemmerer, "Are Social Scientists Backward," Opinion and Comment, X(August, 1948), 18.



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emotion-arousing; it diverts attention from analysis to feeling. The scientific social observer is also a part of the social process he tries to observe; therefore, objectivity is extremely difficult, if not impossible to attain. A vast number of social scientists hold that action or control of behavior is beyond the realm of science; therefore, the purpose of sociology, economics, and other social sciences is only to explain and not to stimulate social action. It is also held that value judgments are involved in the choice of a course of action and that values have no place in a scientific study.

Every society appears to have its sacred core and secular fringe. Physical and social scientists are free to explore, investigate, count, and analyze in the secular fringe. However, a large majority of the "stuff" of social science lies in the boundaries of the sacred core. Here concensus reigns. Issues are closed. It is considered heresy to question habits, attitudes, and beliefs about marriage, property rights, political ideals, government, and intimate family relationships. The decisions have been made by our elders and handed down from generation to generation. History has revealed, however, that small segments of human behavior have gradually and with difficulty been nudged from the sacred core into the secular fringe.

In spite of these and innumerable obstacles, the economists, sociologists, political scientists, historians, social psychologists, and other have produced an abundance of verifiable knowledge related to human social behavior. Principles and laws have been discovered and formulated which, if applied, might solve some of the perplexing problems facing our disturbed and turbulent society today. Because of the obstacles to the production and marketing of this knowledge, the social scientists cannot help the world as much as the world expect them to.

A discovery to which no one listens is obviously of little or no importance. It is mere private gratification which concerns only the discoverer himself. So the great questions arises as to what determines the success of a new idea: what establishes its currency and gives it a social significance by securing its victory over ignorance and indifference or over older rival and conflicting beliefs.

The problem of the diffusion of social science knowledge apparently has two phases: (1) How is human knowledge to be so ordered and presented in school and college as to produce permanent effects and an attitude of mind appropriate to our times and its perplexities? (2) How is this knowledge to be popularized and spread abroad among adults who possess immediate potentialities for ameliorating social ills, but who are apathetic to present pleas? In summary fashion the remainder of this paper will be devoted to an exploration and isolation of some factors which facilitate and other factors which retard the marketing or dissemination of social science knowledge.

In the first place, the rewards for the possession of social science knowledge are not as tangible and apparent as they are for the possession of other types of knowledge. The material incentives are less. Knowledge of chemistry, physics, or engineering is raw material for marketable inventions and crafts. Facts about medicine or hygiene or mechanics have their everyday utilitarian value demonstrated. The same is also true of psychological knowledge, which is cherished by parents, teachers, doctors, lawyers, and other professionals who deal with people.

The prestige incentive is comparatively small. Western culture places a tremendous amount of faith in inventions and discoveries; therefore, the inventors and discoverers in the natural sciences are accorded a high status in society. During the recent war when manpower was urgently needed, it was the individual who possessed knowledge and skills in the natural and physical sciences who was prized highest. This situation maintained both in the professional and in the lay fields.

The psychological reward for the possession of social science knowledge is an inadequate incentive. To know facts which are extremely difficult to apply, or to understand principles of group relationships without an opportunity measurably to influence the group is not psychologically satisfying. Furthermore, the rewards are often delayed or must be measured in abstraction. The fruits of the application of social knowledge are often slow in maturing. Some future generation may reap the benefit while the initiating individual may never realize his contribution. Techniques for measuring the "good" done by these data are cumbersome and inadequate. In addition, many natural scientists maintain a suspicion that social knowledge is not scientific and, therefore, does not merit the acceptance and status accorded findings in their particular field.

Stuart Chapin has said, "The principles of human relations inductively derived from empirical research and observation of human behavior are less likely



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to be accepted by intelligent persons than are prevalent panaceas and superstitions."[2] Why? Among other reasons it may be said that findings which explode cherished superstitutions and beliefs are far from popular. Also the findings of social science are sometimes regarded as elaborate statements of what everybody knows in language that nobody can understand. There is considerable "folk" acceptance of the idea that "where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise," or, in more popular formulation, "What I don't know can't hurt me." The literature is replete with examples of dynamic principles and concepts which have not been refuted, but simply have not aroused enough interest to stir individuals to action. Although people desire peace instead of war, it is far more difficult, because of apathy, to mobilize for peace than for war.

Another obstacle to the diffusion process is that of language barriers which prevent the assimilation of knowledge. The average American has only six years of formal education behind him; therefore, he is unprepared to assimilate the technical jargon of many social scientists. Knowledge which is intended to stimulate people to action must reach them in simplified and easily understood language. Ordinarily men respond according to the law of least effort. Communication fails when language does not refer to the experience and reality of the reading or listening audience. The data of social science cannot be communicated beyond a verbal level unless the student or adult integrates the meaning of the data in his own experiences. Stereotypes serve as a further communication barrier in the dissemination of knowledge. These stereotypes are usually charged with emotions and are difficult to penetrate.

In addition to the language barrier, social science knowledge has been restricted to only a few communication channels. Professional books and magazines carry the bulk of social science knowledge. These organs are largely directed to and read by other professionals. In their struggle for status as scientists the social scientists have been loath to popularize their findings.

Fear of losing status, fear of tenure, fear of being called an idealist, and fear of unpleasant consequences to minority groups are obstacles in the diffusion process. Custom and tradition, emotional attitudes, and prejudices further retard the acceptance of social science knowledge. Furthermore, individual goads and incentives have too often been substituted for group motivation. The disagreements among social scientists themselves make the marketing of social knowledge more difficult.

Many of these difficulties are inevitable. Many have been overcome. Studies have revealed more effective ways of disseminating knowledge. Lessons have been learned from skilful advertising. Since the question now resolves itself into one of diffusion techniques, a few findings will be cited which show how some of the "marketing" problems have been met. Such studies go back to the root causes of acceptance or rejection of an idea. In other words, the formation and change of attitudes are essential and basic elements in the diffusion process. If knowledge is accepted, certain conflicting attitudes held by the recipient must be changed. If existing attitudes are in agreement with the new knowledge, the former are strengthened. If no attitudes exist with reference to the knowledge, they must be formed as a basis for action.

Samelson[3] substantiated the assumption that facts and knowledge alone are inadequate stimuli for changing attitudes. F. T. Smith[4] has shown the importance of experience as a supplement to knowledge in changing attitudes. It has been found that the younger, the less well-informed, and the politically unattached are more susceptible to attitude change.[5] Opinions or attitudes recently arrived at in regard to objects of remote connection to self are much more easily changed than those toward self founded in early home training. In order to gain currency, a new idea must seem "good" and perhaps noble, beautiful, and useful. It must fit in pretty well with existing notions.[6] Kurt Lewin concluded that "the individual accepts the new system of values and beliefs by accepting belongingness to a group."[7]

Motivation is a most important factor in the diffusion of social science knowledge. It is an impetus to action; it is the stimulus which produces a response. Hart[8] has demonstrated that the individual will accept that knowledge which he believes will preserve his biological, material, psychological, and sociological structures and provide a more adequate opportunity for functioning.

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2. Stuart Chapin, "Social Obstacles to the Acceptance of Existing Social Science Knowledge," Social Forces, XXVI (October, 1947), 7.
3. Babette Samelson, "Does Education Diminish Prejudices?" Journal of Social Issues, I (August, 1945), 11-13
4. F. T. Smith, "An Experiment in Modifying Attitudes Toward the Negro," Ph.D. Thesis (Teachers College, Columbia University), 1933.
5. John G. Darley, "Changes in Measured Attitudes and Adjustments," Journal of Social Psychology, IX (1938), 189-199.
6. Daniel Katz, "Psychological Barriers to Communication," Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, CCL (March, 1947), 18-25.
7. Kurt Lewin, "Conduct, Knowledge, and Acceptance of New Values," Journal of Social Issues, I (August, 1945) 53-63.
8. Hornell Hart, Basic Sociology for the Atomic Age, Unpublished manuscript, 1945, Ch. VIII, 1-15.



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The motive of life is to function. Another theory of motivation places primary importance upon satisfyingness (a state we do nothing to avoid) and annoyingness (a state we do nothing to maintain). According to this theory people can be moved to action by making an activity satisfying in either itself or in what it leads to, or both. Stated conversely, one must avoid making the activity annoying, or, if necessary, even make the failure to engage in the activity annoying either in itself or in what it leads to, or both.[9] The introduction of hybrid seed corn in an Iowa community demonstrated the desirability of supplementing verbal appeals with demonstration and personal experience.[10]

Frustration or threat of punishment may give rise to very active movements toward social change; however, motivation through frustration produces only negative results, not positive. "A fearful, thwarted, insecure society is indeed ready to do something; but that something is most likely to be an irrational, emotional action of an aggressive, or compulsive, or regressive nature. Such a society is more likely to follow a demagogue than a statesman."[11]

Constructive modification of attitudes may be more rapid and more permanent if the change occurs in a group of individuals as compared with a single individual.[12] It has been found that certain food preferences which resisted usual methods of influence by lecture, argument, and demonstration could be altered by group discussion leading to a group decision.[13] Another experiment in industry showed that the group incentive plan excelled the piece-rate plan by 40 per cent.[14] In an atmosphere of security and group identification, people can decide on constructive goals and proceed effectively to achieve them.[15] Kurt Lewin, a renowned scholar in group dynamics, says: "One might expect single individuals to be more plyable than groups of like-minded individuals. However, experience in leadership, in training, and in changing food habits, work production, criminality, alcoholism, prejudice, all seem to indicate that it is usually easier to change individuals formed into a group than to change any one of them separately."[16]

Decision is an important link between motivation and action. Motivation alone may not be sufficient to lead to a change of attitudes. Three steps are necessary in a change toward a higher level of performance:[17] (1) the unfreezing of the present level of performance; (2) moving to the new level; and (3) freezing group life on the new level. Weeks or months or years may be required to motivate an individual to change his behavior pattern. When he is motivated, he wants to change or sees that it is desirable to change. This does not insure a change until a decision is made. Decision which takes only a few minutes is able to affect conduct for many months or years to come. It appears that the incentives used for motivation will have to be strengthened and supplemented in order to evoke a decision.

By following the suggestions offered by these findings, one cannot hope for complete success in the dissemination of social science knowledge. One should not anticipate one hundred per cent acceptance of scientific principles. However, if he takes cognizance of verified diffusion techniques, he may expect results commensurate with those obtained by industry, which employs sound marketing procedures.

There appears to be an urgent need for a specialized group to function between the elite of the social scientists and the laymen. This division of labor might leave the responsibilities of production to the observer and analyst. The responsibility of marketing would rest heavily with the teacher, preacher, adviser, social worker, etc. This group, also scientists, would translate the language of the scientist-theorist into the experimental range of the laymen. By such an arrangement the fruits of the intellectual labors of the social scientist might nurture social growth and development, rather than perish in yellowed leaves of journals and books.

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9. Paul J. Kruse, The Problem of Motivation, Unpublished lecture notes for Oklahoma Extension Workers Conference, 1947.
10. Bryce Ryan and Neal C. Gross, "Diffusion of Hybrid Seed Corn," Rural Sociology, VIII (March, 1943) 17-29.
11. Donald G. Marquis, "Psychology of Social Change," Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, Vol. CCXLIX (January, 1947), 162.
12. Carl R. Rogers, Counseling and Psychotherapy, 1942, 305.
13. Margaret Mead, The Problem of Changing Food Habits, National Research Council Bulletin No. 108, 1943, 20-29.
14. N. R. F. Maier, Psychology in Industry, 1946, 109-129.
15. W. R. Bion, "Experiences in Groups," Human Relations, II (1949), 3-13.
16. Kurt Lewin, "Frontiers in Group Dynamics," Human Relations, I (June, 1947), p. 34.
17. Ibid., 37.



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# THE PEOPLE'S COLLEGE AND THE PEOPLE

## The Beginnings of Experimental and Extension Work at Mississippi A. & M. College, 1880-1900

by

John K. Bettersworth

When the legislature was feeling in its pockets for cash to set up the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Mississippi, one of the most convincing arguments in favor of the proposed experiment in practical education was that it would benefit not only the students of the college but also the agricultural and industrial interests throughout the state. General Lee never lost sight of this objective of making the people's college serve the people. Neither did the Board, for that matter, or the legislature! Appropriations were invariably encumbered with riders insisting upon the performance of services for the farming interests of the state.

In their contacts with the public both Lee and his trustees emphasized what was being done by and at the college in the way of solving the problems of Mississippi's farmers. And all this was not merely being done because it was good politics, for Lee and the most influential members of the board appear to have espoused the public service work of the college with something more than a conviction of political expediency.

Lee and the trustees never lacked advice, both from public organizations like the Grange, the Livestock Association, and the Horticultural Society, and from private individuals all the way from the prominent to the humble. This surfeit of counsel visited upon the college in its infancy is certainly a testimony to the fact that the institution was considered truly a college of the people.

General Lee, recognizing the debt of the college to the Patrons of Husbandry, went out of his way to cultivate their leader, Putnam Darden, and his fellows. In return, full publicity for college affairs was given in the state paper, the Patron of Husbandry, and Grangers dutifully supported demands for higher appropriations for the school.[1] One of the trustees, J. M. Causey, served a number of times on the education committee of the state Grange, where he could give a first-hand picture of the accomplishments and needs of the college.[2] In the summer of 1881, the Grange organized a local cell at Starkville, with Phares as master and Gulley as secretary. Darden was on hand with an enthusiastic address praising the college and its patron saint, the Grange. As the Southern Livestock Journal pointed out, "Organized and operated under the shadow of the A. & M. College, the Starkville Grange will be expected to become a model for other Granges throughout the State to imitate."[3] Whenever the state organization met, college representatives such as Lee, Phares, or Gulley managed to attend "in the interests of the College."[4]

The college was very anxious to have the State Grange hold its annual meetings on the campus, and resolutions to that effect were made by the Board in 1882.[5] The invitation was not accepted, however, and in November, 1882, we find Lee writing Darden a detailed account of the relations between the College and the Patrons to date, pointing out what the school had accomplished in agricultural education, and insisting that if the Grange were not able to meet regularly at the campus, it should "appoint yearly an influential committee to visit the College, inspect and examine its management and report their conclusions. We invite investigation and scrutiny from your Order."[6] This time the Grange did comply, and in 1883 a committee of five members spent a day at Starkville inspecting the college. Their report, which was glowing, ended with a call for more funds to carry on the good work, demanding "as liberal appropriations for the A. & M. College as have been made to the State University."[7] The practice of annual inspections continued for several years, and invariably the college received whole-hearted praise.[8]

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1. Jackson Weekly Clarion, March 8, 1882.
2. Patron of Husbandry, January 8, 1881.
3. Southern Livestock Journal, August 4, 1881; Patron of Husbandry, August 20, 1881.
4. Minutes of the Faculty, December 11, 1882, November 10, 1884; Minutes of the Board, January 1, 1883.
5. Minutes of the Board, March 29, 1882.
6. Jackson Weekly Clarion, January 17, 1883.
7. The State Grange and the A. & M. College, 4-5.
8. Ibid., 5-7.



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Lee's relations with Putnam Darden were cordial, and the president's letter book attests to the fact that college policies were being made with an eye on the Grange. In November, 1883 Lee wrote a full description of the college work and forwarded the account to Darden for use in a speech before the National Grange, of which Darden was soon to become Master.[9] Darden's annual addresses nearly always contained friendly references to the college. A calamity for the college and the Grange was Darden's death in July, 1888. Actually, the state Grange had been kept alove, largely through his influence and drive, and after his death the organization rapidly lost prestige in Mississippi. As for the college, Darden's death came at a time when it was being made the victim of much hostile criticism; for by this time such figures as Frank Burkitt, who had gone from the conservative Grange to the radical Farmer's Alliance, were training all their guns on the college. Nevertheless, the nursing that the college had received from the Grange in the early eighties had not been fruitless. In 1887 the Grange had published a brochure in which it pridefully boasted of its aid to the college in the infant years.[10] Furthermore, as we shall see elsewhere, the majority of the state's farmers were apparently still backing the college. As for Darden, in the nineties the Grange joined with the college in placing on the campus a monument to "one of its earliest and best friends."[11]

One of the services that the Grangers expected of the college was the furnishing of lecturers from the faculty for farmer's meetings. Communications from local groups requesting this sort of extension work began to arrive soon after the college started. The result was the development of a twofold lecture program consisting of (1) a Farmer's Short Course, which was designed to be given at the college, and (2) Farmers Institutes, which provided college lecturers for local farm meetings. The impetus for the program came from the State Grange meeting in December, 1883, when Darden proposed the establishment of farmers' institutes to work in close harmony with local granges.[12]

The farmers' course was initiated in January, 1884, at which time "such farmers, young men, or visitors as may desire instruction..., and who cannot attend the College regularly," were permitted to spend the month of January at the College, taking courses of 20 lectures each under the professors of biology, agriculture, horticulture, or chemistry. The lectures would be free of charge and would be "of a popular character."[13] Information as to the degree to which this experiment succeeded is lacking, for after the catalogue of 1884-1885 there is no more mention of the course. One would suspect that attendance was poor, even though the time set was in January, when it was presumed the farmer had more time on his hands than at other seasons. At any rate, the scheme appears to have proved a failure. It is conceivable that what actually happened was that the farmers' institute idea, which was adopted in the spring of 1884, more or less replaced the short course. Meanwhile, lectures open to the public were given throughout the year at regular intervals, usually on Friday afternoons.[14]

The Farmers' Institute took the mountain to Mahomet, a highly desirable procedure in a state where both the means and the money for transportation to Starkville were inadequate. After all, it was more convenient for the faculty to travel to the local community and dispense knowledge than it was for the farmers from all over to treck to the college campus, even if it proved somewhat inconvenient for the college staff to take to the road. Certainly the reaction of the public would very likely be favorable to the scheme. On March 3, 1884 the faculty recommended the institute scheme, and two weeks later the executive committee of the board first "authorized" then "required and instructed" the faculty to hold six farmers' institutes yearly in the state. Funds were set aside to cover expenses of the faculty while doing this extension work.[15] In general, the scheme involved the sending of two or more professors (and occasionally some outstanding students) to any community where an organized group of farmers or a Grange or other agricultural society desired to obtain lecturers on agricultural matters. The month of July was assigned by the Board for such

9. President's Letter Book, November 10, 1883 et. seq.
10. Jackson Weekly Clarion, August 31, 1887.
11. Lee to T. J. Aby, April 22, 1892, President's Letter Book; Mississippi Laws, 1892-3; Biennial Report, 1892-1893, 11.
12. Jackson Weekly Clarion, January 30, 1884.
13. Catalogue, 1883-1884, 37
14. Southern Livestock Journal, April 10, 1884.
15. Minutes of the Board, March 18, 1884; Minutes of the Faculty, March 3, 1884.



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activities.[16] In initiating the program, the board announced:

> ...Without this mutual contact and sympathy, the farmer is deprived of much good which he should secure and demand of the College. If the College is not doing such work, as should command the confidence of our most intelligent farmers in the State, the fact should be known and the remedy applied. If, on the contrary, the work is such as they approve, the farmers should know it, so that they may be benefited by it. The Board asks the farmers to meet the Faculty of the College half way, to accomplish these results.
>
> It is hoped these institutes will encourage the formation of Agricultural Societies, and generally work up an interest in improved farming, that they may show, that education is as necessary for a successful farmer, as for a successful man in any other pursuit of life.[17]

The response to the institute idea was instantaneous. From all over the state came requests for lecturers: Fayette, Canton, Holly Springs, Meridian, and Mississippi City were among the first to apply. All of these places received lecturers, together with the town of Buena Vista. Many towns were passed over in the first series of institutes, but a tabulation made by the faculty in March, 1887 records subsequent visits made to Lafayette Springs, Verona, Hernando, Macon, Corinth, Durant, Rienzi, Booneville, Sardis, and West Point, together with visits of a similar nature to miscellaneous farmers' meetings.[18] One farm meeting in particular seems to have received considerable college support, even though officially it does not seem to have been classified as an institute. That was an annual assembly of farmers at Lake, on the site of an old camp meeting ground. The meeting was listed in college records as early as 1884 as the "Lake State Grange." Even after the Grange went into a decline in Mississippi, the Lake meetings continued as the Patron's Union, and the college regularly sent representatives. The Lake "institute" attracted between 3,000 and 4,000 people each year according to an estimate made by Gulley in 1885.[19]

An account of one of the farmer's institutes held in July, 1884 by a correspondent of the Jackson Clarion gives the full flavor of what the writer flippantly but aptly called an "experience" meeting:

> We have just held one of these experience meetings in this town, with the General to head off in his free and happy style of delivery; with Dr. Phares with his astonishing fund of information on all subjects, and on Agriculture --the Solon of the South. His lecture was a familiar talk on the grasses of the State, native and imported, with a sample of each say fifty in all, winter and summer, blue grass, velvet grass, rescue grass, Alfalfa, Lespadiza, Lucerne, red clover, white clover, red top, and numberless others. One would hardly think that there were as many in the world, much less the State, but forcing the conviction, we need never be without grass and plenty of it at all seasons, making our pastures a living green in January as in June.
>
> Of all things our State most needs it is a grass that will flourish and grow lively all the winter, and he will soon satisfy you....
>
> Then we had Prof. Gulley on blood cattle, Jerseys, Holsteins and Short Horns, showing by actual experiment the "blue grass" region is no better for such than our own State; and the next day on drainage, the science of it, the best modes, and what amount of crops are now standing on our soil with wet feet, as he termed it, and how the bottom of a frog pond can be planted as soon, kept as dry and outyield the rest of the field if you will only run a tile ditch across it, and the mode of doing that with brush or

16. Southern Livestock Journal, May 1, 1884; Catalogue, 1883-4, 46.
17. Catalogue, 1883-1884, 46.
18. Minutes of the Faculty, May 7, 19, June 2, 1884; March 28, 1887.
19. Biennial Report, 1884-1885, 23.



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peles if tiles can't be had cheap enough is a piece of instruction no man who has an acre of bottom land, ought ever to draw another satisfied breath till he finds out.

Then at night, there was Prof. Myers, with his magic lantern exhibiting many vivid photos of farming methods in Egypt and Palestine, taken by himself on the spot, interesting as the Orient ever is for historical reasons, but making you thank heaven you were born in the Mississippi Valley, and the following day elaborating the manure question, showing mathematically upon admitted facts that you ought to plant one acre of cotton to make two bales instead of two acres to make one, and let the other go to grass for the cows.

Now what I want to say to you, and through you, is that these Institutes are the most agreeable and instructive things imaginable, and if persisted in will do more to diversify and improve the farming operations of the State than any system of education yet devised. It is the Lecture system, assuming the form of free talk. The Professors want to be questioned. I hope they won't be any where. Stump them if you can. Every farmer will be wishing his son had all this practical knowledge about the earth and its produots and be able to talk like young Hoskins, a graduate of the A. & M. and a citizen of Brookhaven did on the profits of truck farming and the difficulties in its way. When our boys can talk sense about such things, we may expect the year of jubilee is close at hand for Mississippi.[20]

In his report of 1885, Lee expressed gratification at the response of the farmers and informed the legislature that the demand for meetings was greater than the college could supply.[21] Of course, financial support for the institute program was scant, and when financial retrenchment came in the late 1880's, the institutes were practically abandoned, mention of them being omitted from the catalogues for a decade after 1887. In 1892, Lee attempted to secure aid from the board to revive the institutes and a committee report recommending the allotment of $300 a year for the program was adopted.[22] In the next three years the institute program seems to have revived somewhat, but in many cases farmers met for "experience" meetings without benefit of college lecturers.[23] In 1894 an attempt was made to revive the farmer's course. While a faculty committee undertook consideration of the "advisability" of such a program, apparently nothing was agreed upon at that time.[24]

The Farmers' Institutes began to revive in the late nineties and during the biennium of 1898-1899, 54 meetings were held.[25] At the same time, Lee was recommending to the legislature a specific appropriation of $5000 for this program, so that sufficient personnel might be employed to conduct institutes in every county of the state.[26] The legislature deducted the last cipher and gave the school $500 a year for the institutes. Needless to say, the money came from the fertilizer funds.[27]

In the late nineties the director of the Experiment Station was in direct charge of the institute program. In 1900 supervision over the Farmers' Institutes was placed under the joint control of the president, the professor of agriculture, and the director of the Experiment Station; but in September, 1901, Professor Welborn was relieved of his work as professor of agriculture to take control of the program as Superintendent of Farmers' Institutes, spending at least six months each year at that work.[28] The institutes were, therefore, well on their way to revival at the turn of the century.

No less vital than the farmers' institutes and courses was the necessity of experimental work in agriculture at the college. As has been seen, an experimental farm was contemplated in the organic act establishing the college,

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20. Jackson Weekly Clarion, July 9, 1884.
21. Biennial Report, 1884-1885, 13; 1886-1887, 14.
22. Minutes of the Board, June 13, 14, 1892.
23. Jackson Weekly Clarion, June 27, 1895.
24. Minutes of the Faculty, January 22, 1894.
25. Biennial Report, 1898-1899, 49-50
26. Ibid., 13.
27. Minutes of the Board, June 27, 1899.
28. Biennial Report, 1900-1901; Minutes of the Board, April 6, 1900, September 14, 1901.



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and experiments were undertaken by the agriculture, horticulture, chemistry, and botany departments from the very beginning. The coordination of such work under a single director as a major division of an agricultural college was already being undertaken in other states, but Mississippi must needs await Federal largesse. Agitation for an experiment station began early in the state. In 1881 the Madison County Agricultural Club was in correspondence with Lee regarding the establishment of a station at the college. The Madison County club wished to introduce legislation, but action was discouraged, however, by some of the friends of the college, who feared that other activities of the college might be injured.[29] The movement was not to be silenced, however, and in December, 1883 the Grange took up the battle.[30] In November, 1884, a faculty committee recommended that $1000 be allotted by the board for experimentation, as they did "not believe it practicable to attempt any series of experiments, unless sufficient means can be provided to defray necessary expenses."[31]

Such popular leaders as Ethelbert Barksdale, who for a time joined in the Farmers' Alliance movement, soon gave their blessing to the scheme to solicit Federal funds.[32] Meanwhile, in 1883 the annual meeting of representatives of the agricultural colleges at Washington issued a plea to the federal government for support for experiment work. In January, 1884, Lee was diligently seeking Congressional action, and the faculty was making plans to memorialize Congress.[33] In February Professor Myers wrote a lengthy open letter to Senator George W. Dillard praising the idea of establishing a state experiment station, federal funds or no.[34]

Meanwhile, Lee took pains to prove to the people of Mississippi that experimental work was being done at Starkville, even without the existence of an experiment station. In October, 1885, the president announced in the papers that results were available on experimental work in feed crops, grasses, ensilage, cotton seed and meal feeding, field tests of fertilizers, feeding, drainage, vegetable and small fruit growing, milk and butter making, and the determination of the value of feed stuffs and fertilizers. The facts of these various tests were to be released to any organized body of farmers or newspaper which solicited such information.[35]

In 1885 another appeal was made at a national meeting called by the Commissioner of Agriculture. After several years of delay in Congress, the Hatch Act, which Cleveland signed on March 2, 1887, placed the finishing touches on the federally-sponsored program, thereby making possible the creation of experiment stations in areas like Mississippi where legislative funds were scant.[36]

The Hatch Act provided $15,000 annually in federal public land funds for each state or territory establishing an experiment station. Although there were no funds available in 1887 because of the failure of Congress to make an appropriation, Mississippi promptly set to work. The faculty began to consider plans of operation, and in July, 1887, the trustees were making provisions for the selection of a director and other employees, contingent upon Congressional appropriations.[37] Already Lee had been in correspondence with S. M. Tracy, presumably to fill Dr. Phares' chair in botany but actually in view of the eventual selection of Tracy as director of the new station. "Have you ever had any experience in Experimenting?" asked Lee.[38] Tracy was employed later in the year, and in November he presented to the executive committee of the board a report on the proposed station.[39]

Some concern was occasioned by the fear on the part of the college that a division of the experiment station funds might be made with Alcorn A. & M., but Lee's arguments in favor of centralized operations seem to have convinced the legislature, if it ever needed convincing.[40] At any rate, on January 26, 1888, the legislature formally created the college experiment station.[41]

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29. Jackson Weekly Clarion, May 12, 1881; February 13, 1884.
30. Jackson Weekly Clarion, January 30, 1884.
31. Minutes of the Faculty, November 11, 1883.
32. Jackson Weekly Clarion, December 15, 1886.
33. Minutes of the Faculty, January 21, 28, 1884; Lee to George Harvey, January 17, 1884, President's Letter Book.
34. Jackson Weekly Clarion, February 13, 1884.
35. Jackson Weekly Clarion, October 30, 1885.
36. True, A. C. and Clark, V. A., The Agricultural Experiment Stations in the United States, Washington, 1900, 32-37.
37. Minutes of the Faculty, May 2, 16, 1887; Minutes of the Board, July 4, 1887.
38. Lee to S. M. Tracy, June 7, 1887, President's Letter Book.
39. Minutes of the Board, November 25, 1887.
40. Biennial Report, 1886-1887, 19.
41. Biennial Report, 1888-1889, 71.



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In the administration of the new station, Lee and Tracy adopted a plan that testifies to their common sense and political wisdom. The trustees, of course, retained the final word in all matters. However, an advisory board was set up consisting of the master of the state Grange, the president of the state Farmers' Alliance, the president of the state Horticultural Society, and the president of the state Stock-Grower's Association. These advisors met at intervals during the year at the call of the director. Speaking to the American Association of Colleges and Experiment Stations in 1889, Tracy was enthusiastic over the working of the Mississippi scheme and pointed out that "so far we have found the plans suggested by this board to be in almost all cases the very best for the interests of the station; and we believe that the establishment of this advisory board has created wider interest in the work of the station than any other one thing that has been done,"[42]

The Experiment Station organization was formally approved by the Trustees in March, 1888.[43] Meanwhile, Lee had been taking an active part in determining the work that the station should do. In a letter to Tracy back in October, 1897, Lee spoke of a desire to conduct a series of dairy and livestock experiments, crop rotation work, and experiments with fruits, vegetables, grasses, seed, shrubbery, and new crops. Lee also had advised Tracy to visit the University of Wisconsin, Yale University, and Rutgers to learn from specialists in experiment station work in those places and inform himself regarding the "books" and "outfit" needed for the Mississippi station.[44]

The Hatch Act required the publication of an annual report and regular bulletins. The first report of the Mississippi station appeared in 1889. During its first two years ten bulletins appeared, these being distributed free to farmers.[45] The response of the public to the free bulletins was far from encouraging. Time and time again Lee reported that the farmers were not placing their names on the mailing list. In 1893, only about 6,000 were receiving the bulletins; and in 1894 the board appropriated money to advertise the bulletins in order to acquaint the farmers with them.[46] Meanwhile, publication of the substance of the bulletins in the press of the state did much to spread the experiment station evangel. In 1895 the Jackson Clarion began a page devoted to the publication of "frequent notes in regard to the results of experiments, trials of different fertilizers, methods of cultivating and handling crops, the feeding and management of cattle, the prevention of injurious insects and fungi, the introduction of new crops, and other work done at the State Experiment Station.[47]

One unfortunate circumstance that hampered the station in its first years was the fact that financially the college was considerably embarrassed at that period by reduced legislative appropriations, a condition that made for a curtailment of college personnel and placed increasing hardships upon the faithful few who remained, most of these having to divide their services between the college and the station. Lee told the legislature in 1889 that division of staff time between the two branches had proved to be detrimental to both. "The work of the Stations", Lee pointed out,"" to be effective and useful to farmers, must confine its work to a few skilled men not connected with the College, and who must give their undivided attention to experimental work."[48] Some attempts were made to relieve the situation, even though funds were still lacking for maintaining adequate personnel in both college and station. In 1890 the governor noted the loss of fourteen of the college and station staff as a result of reduced appropriations. Again, in 1896 the governor echoed the president's lament over meagre salaries, and warned the legislature that the college could not afford under such conditions to obtain the best men or hold them once they were employed.[46] At any rate, during the 1890's experiment station work seems more and more to have been limited to the station staff, although members of the faculty were often called upon for aid. In 1893 Lee reported that there were five full-time men employed by the station, while "several of the college faculty" gave part of their time to the work.[47]

One of the first things that Lee and Tracy discovered in their efforts to make the experiment station serve the farmers of the state was that college experiments in land use must take cognizance of Mississippi's various soil areas,

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42. Proceedings of the Second Annual Convention of the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations, Washington, 1889, 34.
43. Minutes of the Board, March 15, 16, 1888.
44. Lee to S. M. Tracy, October 25, 1887, President's Letter Book
45. Biennial Report, 1888-1889, 10.
46. Mississippi, House Journal, 1890, 27; 1896, 26.
47. Biennial Report, 1892-1893, 8.



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that such projects to be of any use must needs be undertaken on the spot. As a result, a movement to establish branch stations arose, and in 1890 the board set aside $1500 for such purposes.[48] During that year the first branch station was set up at Holly Springs, under G. J. Finley, whose first task was to experiment in fertilization for cotton growing on the eroded brown loam soil of that area.[49] Two other stations were set up by the end of 1891: one under Dr. J. B. Bailey on the Patron's Union grounds at Lake, where cotton production and experimental work with grasses were to be tested on the sandy pine soils of east central Mississippi; the other under F. S. Earle at Ocean Springs on the Gulf Coast, where experiments were planned in semi-tropical fruits, rice, sugar cane, and vegetables. In 1893 a fourth station was opened under Dr. D. T. Price at Booneville, in the northeastern corner of the state, where fruit production in that latitude was being tested.[50] In 1894 a station was projected in the Delta area, but no definite action along this line was taken for some years.[51] In June, 1896, the Lake station was allowed to conduct experiments in tobacco production.[52] During the same year the stations at Ocean Springs and Holly Springs appear to have been closed. At any rate the only stations listed in the catalogue for the next several years were those at Booneville and Lake, and these seem to have closed after Tracy left the college in 1897.

A multitude of experiments were carried on in the station proper at Starkville. In 1890 we find the board of trustees directing the station to find a way to effect "the destruction of Johnson Grass."[53] The U. S. Department of Agriculture sponsored special work at the college in grasses and forage plants, and in 1891 Tracy reported that around 200 species were being cultivated. At the same time a botanical survey of the state was begun. Experiments in fruit growing likewise were undertaken, together with work in entomology designed to control insect pests. In 1892 digestion tests were conducted by the chemistry department in connection with a cattle feeding experiment, and in 1895 new dairy buildings were erected and a special herd of Jerseys acquired for the purpose of making tests in feeding for milk production.[54]

One particular experiment was apparently Lee's idea rather than Tracy's, for we find it mentioned in the President's reports but not in Tracy's. Lee's plan was a series of irrigation tests designed to "eliminate disasters incident to temporary drouths in portions of the State where rolling or valley lands can readily supply water from creeks or ponds." Lee felt that "in the near future farmers, with small areas, will be independent of dry weather, and water for irrigation purposes will be deemed as necessary as food for stock and man as in the cultivation of crops."[55] Lee saw to it that Professor McKay, whose Horticulture Department was jointly operated by the college and the station, carried out the irrigation experiment, and in 1895 McKay expressed considerable enthusiasm over the result.[56] That all of this did not set well with Director Tracy appears from correspondence dating from January, 1893, in which Lee criticized Tracy for "insulting treatment" of McKay and hostility toward the Horticulture Department. In this correspondence Lee was careful to point out his own interest in McKay's irrigation experiments and apparently served warning on Tracy to keep hands off.[57]

The irrigation experiment was obviously only one phase of a clash of personalities that was going to bring about an eventual parting of the ways between the two executives. In the spring of 1897, the board asked for and received Tracy's resignation. The final crisis arose over a disciplinary case, in connection with which Tracy and several other members of the staff had divulged certain deliberations of a faculty meeting, in which two students were expelled.[58]

Despite his disagreements with Tracy, General Lee had been impressed with the accomplishments of the Experiment Station under Tracy. In 1895 the President pointed with pride to the visible results of the station activities:

> I might mention a summary in the way of illustrations, viz: That Mississippi is becoming an exporter of hay instead of an importer of it, and the building up of lands by virtue of the rotation of grasses and clovers and peas

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48. Minutes of the Board, June 17, 1890.
49. Catalogue, 1890-1891, 56.
50. Catalogue, 1892-1893, 59.
51. Minutes of the Board, September 24, 1894.
52. Ibid., June 16, 1896.
53. Minutes of the Board, June 16, 1890.
54. Catalogues, 1890-1896, passim.; Biennial Report, 1894-1895, 3.
55. Biennial Reports, 1894-1895, 3.
56. Biennial Report, 1894-1895, 30.
57. Lee to Tracy, January 26, 1893, President's Letter Book.
58. Minutes of the Board, April 13, 1897.



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is of immense pecuniary value. That it has been demonstrated at the Station that the growing of seeds and clover and other legumes is a new and profitable industry. That the better methods of cultivation practiced here in way of shallow culture is being generally adopted. That the treatment of Charbon, as by bulletin, has, in a measure, proved a prevention in our low lands. That our bulletins on fertilizers are of great value. That the results of cotton and the corn experiments have been generally adopted, and are accepted as the best. That the one experiment confirmed by other stations, that white corn yields 5 per cent more than colored corn with the same feeding value, is worth many times the entire cost of the Station for the years of its existence if utilized. That the station has the confidence of farmers of the State, and from almost every county information is freely asked and given. The points I might mention as to our bulletins being republished by the Department at Washington for general use, is best evidence of our work here being of the highest grade.[59]

The Experiment Station, with its obligation not only to experiment but also to get the results of its work before the farmers, created the first demand for a college press. In the early eighties the Southern Livestock Journal furnished a means of disseminating information. However, it was soon to depart from the community. In the nineties the Southern Farmer's Gazette served a like purpose, except for the fact that its editor, Tait Butler, was often at odds with the college administration.

In 1884 a faculty committee, which had undertaken the study of the subject of a college publication program, sadly pointed out that there was not money enough to finance the conducting of experiments, much less for publishing reports on them. The committee did, however, recommend and the faculty adopted a proposal that "a series of articles, from the several professors of the College, explanatory of their work, be prepared and sent to the press of the State for publication in the form of printed slips."[60] Such a system of hand-outs had already been provided for in June, when the Board ordered the printing of a weekly "report of Crops work and other matters of interest at A. & M. College," to be printed in the Southern Livestock Journal, with advance slips being furnished to the state press.[61]

Finally, in November, 1885, Lee was authorized by the board to publish and distribute "reports of Experiments" made at the college, and in 1886 a monthly bulletin was being issued.[62] At the same time he asked in vain that the board purchase "a small printing press."[63] Still not satisfied at the results, the faculty made a further study of the publication matter in the autumn of 1886, as a result of which plans were made for the printing of "some regular periodical similar to the 'Industrialist'."[64] It was while the faculty were in the midst of planning the new bulletin, that a fiscal onslaught against the institution led by the Burkitt supporters in the legislature more or less wrecked the entire plan. Except for the occasional bulletins of the experiment station, official college publication was held to a minimum during the remainder of the Lee era.

Although no extension or adult education departments as such existed in the early years, the college was inevitably forced into such work by the very nature of its function as a farmer's college. The Farmers' Institutes and the farmers' courses were, of course, a form of such work; but the college did not stop there. Faculty members spent a great deal of time answering correspondence from inquiring farmers all over the state and examining specimen of soil, fertilizer, water, -- in fact anything that could be sent through

59. Biennial Report, 1894-1895, 9.
60. Minutes of the Faculty, November 10, 1884.
61. Minutes of the Board, June 18, 1884.
62. Ibid., November 30, 1885; March 22, 1886.
63. Biennial Report, 1884-5, 13.
64. Minutes of the Faculty, November 15, 22, 29; December 13, 1886.



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the mails. In 1883 Lee reported that some of his professors were devoting as much of their time to such work as to classroom activities.[65] Dr. Phares, who was quite well known throughout the state, was the recipient of a voluminous flood of inquiries. "I have been obliged to spend more time in teaching farmers and others all over the State... than in the lecture room," he wrote in 1883. "This work has, at times, been almost an intolerable burden. It will be remembered also that Dr. Kedzie has worked himself to an early death in his enthusiasm to serve the farmers of the state."[66]

Much time was spent in travel to deliver lectures and to attend sundry professional meetings. A summary of such activities made by the faculty in 1887 listed meetings of the National Cotton Planters Association, the Mississippi Horticultural Society, the State Teachers' Association, the State Grange, the Mayhew Stockbreeders Meeting, the Yazoo-Delta Farmers Association, the "Interstate Convention", the Mississippi Valley Horticultural Association, the Agricultural Chemists, the Mississippi Valley Dairymen's Association, the American Horticultural Society, the Farmers Alliance, and "Wheel", and the annual meetings of the national college and experiment station organizations. There were also many "creamery" meetings, together with addresses to local farm groups and graduating classes.[67]

The College was called upon at the outset to assist in the work of promoting immigration to the state and encouraging the development of the state's resources. In 1881 Major A. M. Paxton, who was a member of the board, proposed a survey to be conducted by the college of the "natural and artificial" products of the soil of the state, to be conducted by questionaires and the submission of samples to be placed in a museum at the college. The faculty entered enthusiastically into the spirit of the plan and steps were taken to provide a room for the collection. "I think the College is the place," wrote Kedzie to Paxton, "where such an exhibit of the agricultural and manufacturing possibilities of your state should be placed. It should be the center of information as it is of instruction on these subjects." The project does not seem, however, to have materialized. Within several years mention of the collection was dropped from the catalogues. Nevertheless, individual collections by departments were being built up, possibly with the Paxton idea in mind.

Fairs and expositions provided the college with perhaps the most satisfactory means to publicize its own work and glorify the state resources. For that reason the college was invaribly called upon to provide county and state fairs with exhibits and it also contributed to several great expositions in the last decades of the century. The college generally contributed exhibits to the fairs at Aberdeen, Columbus, and Meridian, sometimes dismissing classes for the students to attend the functions.[70] In 1885, for example, special rates were being sought from the Illinois Central and the Mobile and Ohio to ship a two-car cattle exhibit to the fairs at Aberdeen and Meridian.[71] The livestock sales days that were inaugurated at the college in 1882 were in reality fairs, and they were enjoyed by the populace as such.[72] In fact, in 1885 the trustees proffered the free use of the campus to any agricultural association of the state, district, or county, to hold a fair or exhibition of agricultural products or livestock, provided the fair were strictly agricultural or mechanical in nature. The Board warned, however, that "all gaming shows and devices of like character [were] to be excluded."

By far the most important exposition to which the college sent an exhibit in the early years was the World's Industrial Exposition at New Orleans in 1884-1885. In 1884 the legislature set up a Mississippi State Exposition Bureau, of which Lee was a member, and provisions were made for an elaborate state exhibit. The college took an active part in the preparations, sending an exhibit consisting of five varieties of hay, ten varieties of corn, six varieties of grass, nine varieties of peas, four varities of beans, and ten varieties of cotton, together with a number of educational items, including a pamphlet explaining the operation of the college.[73]

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65. Biennial Report, 1883, 13.
66. Ibid., p. 26.
67. Minutes of the Faculty, March 28, 1887.
68. Minutes of the Faculty, April 15, 22, May 16, 28, 1881.
69. Jackson Weekly Clarion, June 2, 1881.
70. Minutes of the Faculty, October 12, 1881; Minutes of the Board, October 16, 1882.
71. J. W. C. Watson to D. B. Morey, October 16, 1885; to C. J. Waller, October 16, 1885; President's Letter Book.
72. Southern Livestock Journal, June 29, 1882.
73. Minutes of the Faculty, October 6, 20, December 1, 1884; Minutes of the Board, March 13, 1885; Catalogue of Exhibits of the State of Mississippi, at the World's Industrial Exposition, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1884-'85, Jackson, 1885.



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Although the legislature originally ordered the preservation of the entire state exhibit at the college, by the time the exposition had been extended through the year 1886, much of the exhibit was ready for the junk pile. The valuable wood display, acquisition of which the president had coveted, was in a rotting condition. Nevertheless, two car loads of items were eventually salvaged and brought to the college.[74]

During the first year of the fair arrangements were made for the student body of the college to attend, and at 5 a.m. on March 16, 1885 a special train left the campus bound for New Orleans.[75] Already a number of the faculty had gone to New Orleans to prepare the exhibit.[76] That the fair was becoming too much of a good thing is suggested by the fact that during the autumn of 1885, when the student body was invited for a second time, Lee refused on the ground that half of the students were new men, ununiformed and unacquainted with the manual of arms. Presumably the cadets would be expected to drill in connection with an official student visit to the fairgounds.[77] In 1887, more fair-minded than ever, the student body requested permission to attend the Piedmont Fair at Atlanta, a petition which, of course, was not granted.[78] Meanwhile, the college had participated in a dairy show in New Orleans early in 1886 by contributing an exhibit, and a display was prepared for the state fair in Jackson in 1888.[79]

In the 1890's the energies of the college were turned toward the preparation of an exhibit for the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago. The Experiment Station took part in a cooperative station exhibit by the Association of Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations, Tracy serving on the committee preparing the display.[80] The college was also called upon to contribute to other Mississippi exhibits at Chicago.[81]

College authorities appear to have been called upon regularly to perform administrative, supervisory, and decorative functions at the multitude of local fairs held in the state. Lee and the director of the Experiment Station seem to have enjoyed a host of positions as honorary vice presidents.

Never in the history of the state was there more concern over the advertisement of state resources and the encouragement of immigration than in the early years of the existence of the college. Naturally, moved by its very nature and the inclinations of its president and local trustee, the College espoused such activities. In 1883, a special report of the U. S. Department of Agriculture on Mississippi: its Climate, Soil, Productions, and Agricultural Capabilities called special attention to the work of the college.[82] In 1888, the State Commissioner of Immigration issued a florid pamphlet entitled, Are You Coming South? If So, Read Carefully This Hand-Book of the State of Mississippi.[83] Here again the college received flattering mention. In 1887, Professor Gulley was serving as vice president of the Oktibbeha County Immigration Society, which issued a leaflet on that county and its advantages.[84]

The 1880's were a "critical period" for the college. As we shall see in the next chapter, there was attack from all sides, and the question was frequently being asked as to whether the college was worth its keep. Actually, considering the almost insuperable handicaps in the way of scant appropriations and public apathy, it is something of a miracle that the college survived. Certainly the active and diligent manner in which Lee and his staff endeavored to make the college program vital to the farmers of the state, whether they had sons on the campus or not, must have contributed to the salvation of the institution. Experiments, Farmers' Institutes, farmers' courses, fairs, and advice-to-the-landlorn correspondence were far from wasted activities. Indeed, in these multifarious "extension" measures, the college laid the foundations for its enduring popularity with the people whom it was intended to serve.

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74. Minutes of the Board, June 16, 1885; Biennial Reports, 1884-1885, 12; 1886-1887, 14.
75. Minutes of the Board, December 10, 1884; Minutes of the Faculty, March 2, 16, 1885.
76. Minutes of the Faculty, January 19, February 2, 1885.
77. Lee to Gov. Lowrey, October 30, 1885, President's Letter Book.
78. Minutes of the Faculty, October 3, 1887.
79. Minutes of the Faculty, January 11, 1886; Minutes of the Board, September 17, 1888.
80. A. A. A. C. E. S., Proceedings, 1890, 62; Minutes of the Board, June 15, 1891; Minutes of the Faculty, November 7, 1892, January 2, 1893.
81. Minutes of the Faculty, March 21, 1892, May 2, 1892.
82. Washington, 1883, 27-29.
83. Jackson, 1888, 18-19, 418.
84. Hand Book and Descriptive Catalogue of Oktibbeha County, Mississippi, by the Oktibbeha County Immigration Society, Starkville, 1887.



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# *Nicholas Philip Trist: Biography of a Disobedient Diplomat*

by

ROBERT A. BRENT

(NOTE: The following is an abstract of Dr. Brent's doctoral dissertation at the University of Virginia. Dr. Brent, who is a member of the Department of History and Government, received his Ph.D. degree in June, 1950.)

In 1832 an admirer wrote to Nicholas Philip Trist, "You have influence with the President, you have influence with the Secretary [of State]; you have influence with all people." These words, not meant as flattery, but as an honest statement of fact are true enough, yet the man to whom they were directed failed to reach the successful heights that many of his friends confidently predicted for him, and his official career ended in disgrace in the year 1848.

Trist, who was born in Charlottesville, Virginia, at the dawn of the eighteenth century came at an early age under the masterful influence of Thomas Jefferson. Indeed it was at Monticello that he met, wooed, and married Virginia Jefferson Randolph, favorite granddaughter of the ex-President. While in residence at the mountain-top retreat, both before and after his marriage, Trist was profoundly affected by many of Jefferson's philosophies, and these principles he carried over with him into later life. As one of the administrators of Jefferson's estate, Trist came into possession of priceless manuscripts which gave him further opportunity to study the writings of the Sage of Monticello. When in later years as a clerk in the State Department, and as Andrew Jackson's private secretary, Trist put some of his own theories about government on paper, Jefferson's influence could be clearly seen.

As the intimate secretary, and indeed the protege of Jackson, Trist was given the opportunity to compare the political beliefs of two of the greatest presidents the United States has known. In long talks with Old Hickory, Trist expounded on how he believed Jefferson would have handled similar problems. There is much evidence that Jackson's increased respect for Jefferson in later life came as a result of these discussions with his young secretary in the years from 1830 to 1833.

Despite the attractiveness of his position as a member of Jackson's official household, Trist's ambition led him to seek a more lucrative position, and the President obliged by naming his young protege consul to the Cuban port of Havana. This post lived up to the financial expectations, but otherwise was not nearly so desirable as had been thought. Despite several decisions to resign and turn to the practice of law as a means of livelihood, Trist remained at his post until relieved because of political reasons by the accession to power of the Whigs in 1841. This Cuban interlude was marked by several scandals which seemed to implicate Trist in many ways. He was accused of aiding and abetting the slave trade, of failing to render fullest service to American residents of the island, and of not upholding the rights of United States maritime interests in the manner prescribed by State Department regulations. Of all these charges, Trist was exonerated by a Congressional Investigating Committee in 1340, but the very fact that the charges were investigated at all, lends credence to the belief that he was at least remiss in the carrying out of his duties, if not guilty of malfeasance.

The resurging Democratic tide which resulted in James K. Polk's elevation to the White House in 1845, saw Trist return to the State Department, this time as second in charge, under Secretary James Buchanan. By faithful devotion to his duties, by virtue of his quick and inquisitive mind, and by his connection with most of the key figures in the hierarchy of the Administration, Trist was chosen by Polk in 1847 to render a great service to his country, although it was the fulfillment of this service that resulted in his banishment from Washington, and a later life of poverty and disgrace.

Owing to the faulty communications of the day, and with a desire to bring to a conclusion the Mexican War and silence the critics of his administration, Polk asked Trist to accompany General Scott's invading army into the heart of Mexico, there to make peace with the Mexican government as soon as it should show any inclination to conclude hostilities. To aid him in this respect, Buchanan drew up terms that would be acceptable to the United States, terms which called for the cession to this country of a large area of land in the Southwestern corner of the United States. Nicholas Trist was chosen for this mission because of his fluent knowledge of the Spanish language, and because he was trusted by the administration to carry out the job well and bring some measure of credit to the party in power.



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After many initial clashes of personality and temperament with Commander-in-Chief Scott, and still more with the Mexican officials, Trist was making real progress in the direction of peace when he suddenly received orders to break off his negotiations and return home with his mission unaccomplished. This amazing about face was caused by President Polk's belief that the terms of peace entrusted to Trist were too lenient, and that if the Democrats were to successfully stave off the Whig challenge in the elections of 1848, more Mexican territory must be demanded and brought under the Stars and Stripes.

This was the most important problem with which Nicholas Trist ever had to grapple. The easy solution would have been to return home as ordered, leaving the conclusion of peace to a later day, and perhaps assuring that the appetite of Manifest Destiny would chew off a morsel of Mexican land large enough to satiate its voracious appetite for all times. However, Trist reasoned, would this be the best for the United States? Would the absorption of more, or even all of Mexico benefit his country, or would it result in strained Latin American relations which might never be healed? Knowing of the superhuman attempts of the Peace Party in Mexico to end the war, and realizing that his return to Washington at this crucial juncture might lead to anarchy in Mexican politics, Trist resolved to remain and conclude his treaty, orders or no orders. In this decision, General Scott backed him to the limit.

The result of Trist's disobedience was, of course, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, the Treaty by which the Mexican War came to a conclusion, and by which the United States was guaranteed title to Texas, and ceded the present day states of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Nevada. Polk with reluctance accepted the treaty by his unauthorized and disavowed agent, and the Senate concurred, thus making it the supreme law of the land.

But what of the man who had labored so long and so mightily for that very significant document? Was he accorded a hero's welcome on his return to his native land? It is difficult to analyze Polk's motives toward the man who had carried out the dreams of the administration; who despite the lack of full support from Washington had brought so much credit to the Democratic Party. Polk received the glory, but for his labors, Trist was dismissed from government service and forced to spend most of the remaining years of his life in menial employment and dire unhappiness. It was not until the Grant administration in 1871 that Trist was even paid the salary owed him by the government for the years 1847-48. With friends still highly placed in governmental positions, Trist was granted the Postmastership at Alexandria, Virginia, in 1872 where he spent a few happy years surrounded by his family and friends before his death in 1874.

It would be easy indeed to pass off Trist as a vain, pompous little man who because of his intimate contact with highly placed government officials was able to gain important positions for himself--positions for which he was unqualified. Too, there have been statements that his act of disobedience in Mexico was despicable and cannot be explained away save by arrogance and desire for personal aggrandizement. This line has been taken by many historians in the past.

True Trist's career never did reach the heights predicted, but he would be rash who would not agree today that Trist's achievements in 1847-48 were for the best, long-range interests of the United States. He was a faithful if not an ardent servant of Manifest Destiny. To have taken more at the time might have resulted in a different political structure in the Western Hemisphere. Trist himself was never sorry for his deed; Americans today should be grateful for what has resulted because of his action.

## THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND GRANTS-IN-AID

A study of grants-in-aid to individual scholars in the United States has recently been completed by Elbridge Sibly for the American Philosophical Society and the Social Science Research Council (S.S.R.C., Items, June, 1950). The survey was made among the faculties of 16 institutions, and 74% of the questionaires sent out were returned. The findings as they concerned the social sciences are summarized herewith.

Of a total of 1,303 respondents covering all fields, 375 indicated receipt of support funds. In the social science field, 180 of 407 respondents reported aid. It is pertinent to note that of natural science requests, 73% were granted, while of social science requests, only 24% were granted--an indication that social scientists are at least great askers, if not great receivers. It was found that of support given from college and university sources, social scientists obtained $220 per capita as against $490 for the natural sciences. Of private sources, the social scientists obtained $310 per capita as against $270 for the natural sciences. ONE WILL NOTE THAT THE SOCIAL SCIENCES ARE FAR MORE LIBERALLY SUPPORTED BY PRIVATE FUNDS THAN BY COLLEGE SOURCES, while the reverse is the case with the natural sciences. As for governmental aid, the social sciences received $10 per capita from the military and $80 from other governmental agencies, while the natural sciences received $520 and $420 respectively. A survey of the aid given by five private organizations indicates that the South obtained 55% of the grants requested as against 60% for the North and 65% for the West. Only the Midwest, with 54%, ranked with the South.



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## COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE FORMED

Dr. Fred T. Mitchell has recently appointed a special committee the purpose of which is to devise ways and means of making the services of the various research and extension agencies at Mississippi State College available on the local and community level. The committee, which is known as the Community Service Committee; consists of Dr. Harold F. Kaufman, chairman; Dr. M. P. Etheridge; Dr. D. W. Parvin; Dr. T. A. Kelley; Major H. S. Johnson; Professor Lee B. Gaither; and Professor A. G. Holmes. This group has been working closely with another committee, appointed by Director Frank Welch, designed to make a survey of the physical, professional, and informational sources available at the College for use by the people of the state. The latter committee consists of the same membership as the above committee with the addition of Dr. J. D. Falls, Dr. Gordon K. Bryan, and Professor H. P. Todd. Both committees have been meeting jointly and will make a preliminary report to the President before the end of the summer.

The idea of setting up a campus organization for community service grew out of a series of discussions prompted by the director of the Experiment Station and the Extension Service, and vigorously promoted by the Social Science Research Center, which had already made plans for a community service program of research and off-campus activities to be initiated in September with the return of Professor Dorris W. Rivers to the campus. Professor Rivers will serve as chief consultant and community specialist for the Social Science Research Center. Meanwhile, Dr. Kaufman is devoting his time to the planning of the program.

It has long been recognized as vital that Mississippi State College and the local community find some common ground of mutual cooperation. The community organization program is designed to achieve that end. It has already become a campus-wide project involving all the various resources of the college that are needed by Mississippi communities in tackling and solving their problems. Mississippi State College is the first institution in Mississippi seriously to establish a coordinated program of community service. It is a tribute to the various agencies and individuals who have been invited to cooperate in this program that the College has been able to establish a united front in offering its services to the Mississippi community.

## CHURCH AND COMMUNITY CONFERENCE HELD

The second annual Church and Community Conference met on the campus of Mississippi State College on July 25-26 in connection with the Farm and Home Week program. A total of 250 church and community leaders attended and at least half of the counties of Mississippi and ten religious denominations in the state were represented. The conference was planned by the Mississippi Christian Rural Fellowship under the sponsorship of Dr. Harold F. Kaufman, head of the Division of Sociology and Rural Life and Agricultural Extension Sociologist. Dr. L. O. Todd, President of East Central Junior College at Decatur, served as chairman of the Fellowship. In addition to seven commission, which worked on individual aspects of the church and community problems, the conference devoted its time to the task of drafting a constitution for the Miss. Christian Community Fellowship, which has been formed as a result of the annual church and community conference. Among prominent figures in the field of religious and community work brought to the campus were: Dr. Jack Walton, of Duke University; Dr. Cecil Thompson, of Columbia Seminary; Dr. Dumont Clarke, of the Farmers' Federation; Dr. Paul D. Sanders, editor of the Southern Planter; Bishop Marvin Franklin, of the Mississippi area of the Methodist Church; and Mr. Frank Meehan, of the National Council for Community Development.

Dr. Jack Walton spoke before the general assembly of Farm and Home Week at 10:30 Tuesday morning, using as his subject, "The Church and the Present Rural Scene." Dr. Cecil Thompson spoke later in the day on the value of a community development program under church sponsorship. Dr. Dumont Clarke spoke on Christian stewardship as a factor in community living. In the evening, at a fellowship dinner presided over by Dr. Fred T. Mitchell, Bishop Franklin gave an address on "The Challenge to Community Service." On Wednesday morning the conference heard a panel discussion led by the Rev. H. A. Wolff, of Laurel, on "Churches at Work." The climax of the conference was a general session held in Lee Hall auditorium on Wednesday afternoon at which Mr. Frank Meehan led a discussion on the problem of



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"Community Development in Mississippi." The conference concluded with a business meeting at which reports were made by the several commissions. Under the new constitution a 15-member Congress was selected to direct the work of the Mississippi Christian Community Fellowship. As chairman of the fellowship the members chose the Rev. J. A. Lindsey, of Florence. Other officers are: the Rev. C. E. Patch, of Baldwyn, vice-chairman; the Rev. C. E. Stidham, of Coffeeville, secretary-treasurer; and Professor D. W. Rivers, recording and corresponding secretary. Plans adopted by the Fellowship for the future will be given special attention in the September issue of the Bulletin.

## SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTER ISSUES FIRST BULLETIN

Dr. Gordon K. Bryan is author of a study just published by the Social Science Research Center entitled County Finances in Mississippi. This work, which is first in a series of Social Science Studies to be issued by the Center, was begun by Dr. Bryan as a part of his dissertation in connection with a General Education Board grant. Dr. Bryan has recently revised the study to include developments in recent months. Copies may be obtained by request by filling out the blank on page 8.

## KELLY ON HOUSING SURVEY

Dr. Thomas A. Kelly, assistant professor of accounting at Mississippi State, is serving as consulting statistician for a survey of low-rent housing facilities in Meridian, Mississippi. The Meridian Housing Authority is making the survey to obtain information for the planning and administration of housing projects in that city. The Davis Company, engineering survey specialists, has been appointed to conduct the project.

## INST. MGT. DEPT. SPONSORS HOTEL MEETING

Over 70 hotel employees from several Southern states are expected to arrive on the campus July 31 to take a five-day short course, according to Professor J. J. MacAllister, head of the Institutional Management department here. This department is one of the few in the county that offers a course of study in hotel management.

## BETTERSWORTH SPEAKS AT ENTERPRISE

Dr. John K. Bettersworth was the principal speaker at the dedication of an historical marker at Enterprise on July 4. The ceremonies were held in connection with a homecoming day at this historic city.

## DR. DICKENS ADDRESSES ALABAMA AAUW

Dr. Dorothy Dickens spoke at a state-wide meeting of the American Association of University Women at the University of Alabama on July 28-29. The subject of Dr. Dickens' address was "Levels of Living in the South."

## CHRISTIAN ATTENDS NATIONAL MARKETING WORKSHOP

W. E. Christian, Jr., associate professor of agricultural economics, attended the National Marketing Research Workshop at Purdue University, July 17-19.

## MAGRUDER ATTENDS MISSISSIPPI BAR ASSOCIATION MEETING

Professor Augustin Magruder attended the annual meeting of the Mississippi Bar Association at Biloxi held on June 2-3. Mr. Magruder was a member of the Finance and Budgeting Committee, whose report was adopted without change by the Bar Association.

## BRYAN TO VISIT TEXAS INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Gordon K. Bryan, consultant in government for the Social Science Research Center, will pay a visit to the University of Texas Institute of Public Affairs during his vacation at the end of the summer school.



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## WELLS ATTENDS COTTON RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Chester Wells, assistant professor of agricultural economics, attended the 11th annual Cotton Research conference at Dallas, during the week of July 24-29.

## TAXATION STUDY BEGUN

A state-wide study of local finances is being undertaken under the sponsorship of the Mississippi Economic Council. At Mississippi State College the School of Business and Industry is participating in this study through the Business Research Station and the Social Science Research Center. A special state-wide work committee has been assigned to the task, with Professor Gordon K. Bryan representing Mississippi State. The first phase of the study will be concerned with municipal finances. Later the group plans a study of county finances.

## JENKINS GOES TO BAE

Lewis P. Jenkins, instructor in agricultural economics, will leave August 1 to serve an internship in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Mr. Jenkins expects of return to his duties here after one year.

## BETTERSWORTH APPOINTED TO GRADUATE COUNCIL

Dr. J.K. Bettersworth was appointed as a member of the Graduate Council at Mississippi State College on July 1.

## WEIR AND WEINER DOING DOCTORAL WORK

Two members of the Economics Department are away for the summer doing work on their doctoral degrees. Mr. Norman Weir is at the University of Kentucky, and Mr. William Weiner is gathering material for his dissertation at Columbia University. He is working in the field of public utilities, the subject of his dissertation being the natural gas companies.

## PARVIN ATTENDS FARM DISCUSSION

Dr. D. W. Parvin, of the Department of Agricultural Economics, discussed farm reorganization on family size farms with the Coordinating Council of Neshoba County on June 4.

## CAMPUS DELEGATION TO ATTEND CONFERENCE ON GRADUATE STUDIES

Dean Herbert Drennon will head a delegation of Mississippi State faculty members who will attend a special work-conference sponsored by the Board of Control for Southern Regional Education at Daytona Beach, September 4-7, for the purpose of discussing the graduate research and instructional programs of the colleges and universities in the South. The conference will undertake to define and indentify those areas of graduate work which are in urgent need of expansion and improvement in order to make their fullest contribution to the social, economic, and cultural development of the South; to determine the characteristics of the curricula and research programs with the objective of making the graduate programs of southern institutions second to none in the nation; and to develop and agree on plans for administering and financing these programs. The Mississippi State College delegation to Daytona Beach will include, in addition to Dr. Drennon, Dr. C. Dale Hoover, head of the Agronomy Department; Professor Lee Gaither, head of the Department of Resource-Use Education, and Dr. John K. Bettersworth, head of the Department of History and Government and Chairman of the Social Science Research Center. Dr. Frank J. Welch, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Director of the Experiment Station, will also attend the conference as a member of the Commission on Graduate Studies and a member of a special committee on supplemental graduate facilities.

## BETTERSWORTH HEADS YMCA ADVISORY BOARD

Dr. John K. Bettersworth was elected chairman of the YMCA Advisory Board for the college, effective July 1. He succeeds Dr. C. Q. Sheely, who has served in that capacity for the past two years.



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## FARM MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE HELD IN JUNE

Dr. Harold F. Kaufman, of the Division of Sociology and Rural Life; Drs. D. W. Parvin and James P. Gaines of the Agricultural Economics Department here; and Grady B. Crowe, USDA agricultural economist from Stoneville, addressed the Farm and Home Administration supervisors' conference here early in June. "Community development in Mississippi is a part of the nation-wide grass-roots movement for local improvement," said Kaufman. "As the movement is one at the grass-roots, local organization takes several forms," Dr. Kaufman said. "In Mississippi we have on the one hand the rather comprehensive county programs like those in Lee and Pike counties and on the other the small open-country neighborhood club. The development of industry and agriculture has received major emphasis in community development programs thus far, but education, religion, health, and welfare interests are getting increased attention. Definite interest in community development is in evidence in every section of the state," Dr. Kaufman continued. "This presents a challenge to educational leadership. Developing a community requires an art and a science just as does the building of a factory, business, or farm."

"Farm mechanization is not geared to the old-mule family-size farm unit," declared Dr. Parvin, discussing the changes needed in farm management in the hill section, "Production control accentuates the need for larger family-size farm businesses." Dr. Parvin recommended that operators of family-size farms increase the size of their farm businesses by doing a more intensive job of their present enterprises or by shifting to more intensive enterprises that require little additional investment or rent, or add intensive enterprises which require considerable investment, or buy more land.

There can be no doubt that the advances in technology that have occurred in recent years have greatly reduced the costs of producing farm products in Mississippi, according to Professor Gaines. Largest savings have accrued to large farms, where the use of mechanical power has reduced both labor and power costs. "Small farms have not realized the advantages of mechanization to the same extent as large farms," he said. "They are not able to pay for a tractor in one or two years out of their relatively small income. Machinery may save enough money to justify its use but not enough to pay large notes. Financial arrangements that will permit payment for machinery more nearly in line with the earnings of that machinery would be helpful." He said that hiring machine work and cooperative purchase and use of expensive equipment offer other opportunities to small farms.

"The Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station is continuously studying change in farm technology, both from an economic and a technical standpoint," he continued. "The studies indicate that large farms should use the largest power and equipment available and practical for field use. Studies of tractors show that four-row tractors are more economical on cotton units of over 60 acres, and that two-row tractors are more economical on cotton units from about 30 to 60 acres." He said that cotton farms which have more than 30 acres and enough work for two mules will find used two-row tractors or a very small "peewee" tractor more economical than other machines. Considerable caution and good judgment must be exercised in recommending power types to farms of less than 30 acres. "The reorganization of large Delta farms within the framework of production controls presents many problems," said Mr. Crowe. "These problems are increased in number and intensified when small farms are considered, especially under conditions of mechanized production. In most instances, acreage on these farms are too small to warrant ownership of harvesting machinery. In the main, these farmers will be dependent on custom harvesting or joint ownership of such machinery."

According to Dr. Crowe, the expenditure necessary for the purchase of a tractor and its equipment would represent a large drain on the operating capital available to most operators of small farm units. There is a possibility of ownership of such equipment, however, by either doing custom work for neighboring farmers or by increasing the size of the farm by renting additional acres. Another possibility is through the purchase of second-hand tractors and equipment. While repairs are likely to be high on these items, depreciation and interest will be reduced to a minimum. "Reorganization of small Delta farms will probably be made around the cotton base and in all likelihood, for the next year or two, be made with crop alternatives, with livestock enterprises coming more slowly as a long range program," Mr. Crowe concluded. "This is, no doubt, as it should be. It is simpler to shift to crop alternatives, such as corn, soybeans, and oats, than to livestock enterprises which for the most part requires pastures for efficient production."



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## COLLEGE CONSULTED ON REPORT FOR DAYTONA CONFERENCE

Dr. Harry Williams, who is with the Board of Control for Southern Regional Education, visited the campus on July 6, in connection with preparations for the work conference on graduate education to meet at Daytona Beach, September 4-7. Dr. Williams was at Mississippi State to confer with specialists here concerning a report he is to make at the conference with respect to trends in Southern economic, social, and political life as they affect or will be affected by the graduate educational programs of Southern colleges and universities. Dr. Williams chose Mississippi State as the institution best able to furnish him with the information he needed, and the College feels honored at this token of recognition of its leadership in the field of research and study in Southern problems.

## FULBRIGHT APPLICATIONS FOR 1951-52 DUE BY OCTOBER

Approximately 300 Fulbright awards are available to U. S. citizens for university lecturing and advanced research abroad for the academic year 1951-52, according to John K. Bettersworth, college Fulbright representative. Many of the lecturing opportunities are in specific subjects at designated universities. Others are unspecified as to subject and institution and applications for lecturing will, therefore, be accepted in a variety of subjects. Further details may be obtained from Dr. Bettersworth.

## RIVERS TO RETURN IN SEPTEMBER

Professor Dorris Rivers is continuing his studies at Duke University during the summer in order to complete all his resident requirements for the Doctorate at that institution. He will return to State College the first of September. In addition to his teaching duties, he plans to devote a portion of his time next year to the over-all college program on community development and he will serve as chief consultant in community development for the Social Science Research Center.

## FARM PRICE SURVEY FOR MAY-JUNE

According to the monthly survey of farm prices for the Mississippi Farm Research, made by D. W. Parvin and W. E. Christian, Jr., of the Agricultural Economics Department, prices received by Mississippi farmers in May arose for the fourth consecutive month to 253 per cent of the 1909-14 average. This was almost 3 per cent above April, the same as one year ago, and 20 per cent below the all-time high established in December, 1947. In fact, in May the prices received by Mississippi farmers were 2.5 per cent higher than the average for the United States as a whole. The price paid by farmers in May was one per cent higher than one month ago. The relatively greater increase in prices received over prices paid by Mississippi farmers raised the parity ratio 2 percentage points to 100 per cent. This is 3 percentage points higher than the average United States parity ratio and is the same parity ratio that existed one year ago for Mississippi farmers.

In June prices received by Mississippi farmers increased for the fifth consecutive month to 258 per cent of the 1909-14 average. This is 2 per cent higher than one month ago, 4 per cent higher than one year ago, but 18 per cent lower than the all-time peak of 315 established in December, 1947. The index of prices received by all farmers in the United States averaged 247 in June, slightly below the index of prices received by Mississippi farmers. Prices paid by farmers increased slightly from May to July--less than one per cent.

## BARRISTERS CLUB ELECTS OFFICERS

J. O. Southward, Tishomingo, was elected president of the Barristers Club at Mississippi State at its last meeting for the year. Jack Scarborough, Nitta Yuma, was elected vice president, and Albert Weeks, Gulfport, secretary-treasurer.

## MARKETING CLUB ELECTS OFFICERS

Emmett Atwood, Kosciusko, was installed as next year's president of the Marketing Club at a dinner meeting of this group here. The banquet was addressed by H. A. Lauback of the Esso Company, Baton Rouge. Sidney Barineau, Durant, was installed as vice president; Louis Little, Jackson, as secretary; and Jim Johnston, Vardaman, as treasurer.



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## SOCIOLOGISTS TO ISSUE BULLETIN ON HEALTH STUDY

Mr. Robert E. Galloway and Dr. Harold Kaufman are completing a manuscript on the use of medical services in Northwest Mississippi. This represents the analysis of a portion of the data collected in the field study carried on during the past year in Lee and Choctaw counties. Professor Marion Loftin is also preparing a manuscript on this same project. Mr. Dallas Johnson, a graduate major in sociology, is using some of the unanalyzed data collected on this study for his Master's thesis.

## GAITHER ATTENDS RESOURCE-USE MEETING

Professor Lee B. Gaither, of the Resource-Use Education department at Mississippi State, participated in a conference at Daytona Beach, Florida, early in June. The purpose of the conference was to develop a guide for resource-use education workshops. The conference was sponsored by the Committee on Southern Regional Education in cooperation with the Southern States Work Conference. The latter is an annual conference of the state education departments and educational associations of the Southern states.

## CROWE RECEIVES DOCTOR'S DEGREE

Grady B. Crowe, agricultural economist at the Delta Branch Experiment Station, Stoneville, received his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia on June 12. He has been engaged in a study of cotton mechanization in the Delta for the past three years, and he wrote his thesis on the economics of cotton mechanization. "The progress made in mechanizing cotton production to date is small when considered in the light of potentialities for economy and efficiency which lie in the direction of complete mechanization," Dr. Crowe believes.

## PEDERSEN LEADS STUDY OF SOCIAL ASPECTS OF MECHANIZATION

Dr. Harald A. Pedersen is assuming leadership in the study on social aspects of mechanization. This study is a sub-project of a larger research unit on mechanization now being conducted by the Experiment Station. A beat in the Delta is being selected for study, and Dr. Pedersen hopes to be in the field taking schedules within the next month.

## EXPERIMENT STATION MEN ATTEND MECHANIZATION CONFERENCE

Several social scientists of the Experiment Station staff, including Director Frank Welch, Dr. Harald A. Pedersen, and others, attended the Farm Mechanization Conference at Greenville, July 14-16.

## HEALTH STUDY FIELD WORK CONTINUES

Professor Marion Loftin and Mr. Robert Galloway are planning to begin field work on health practices and use of medical services in Bolivar and Forrest counties within the next month. This work is a continuation of that begun last year in Lee and Choctaw counties. Special emphasis will be given this year to the use of hospitals by the people surveyed.

## ISHEE ACCEPTS FELLOWSHIP AT PENN STATE

Mr. Sidney Ishee, a graduate student in agricultural economics, has accepted a fellowship from Pennsylvania State College beginning this fall.

## PARVIN AND CHRISTIAN BEGIN LIVESTOCK STUDY

Professors D. W. Parvin and W. E. Christian, Jr., are initiating a study of the relative efficiency of methods of producing and marketing livestock and livestock products.

## FAUGHT ATTENDS COTTON COMMITTEE MEETING

W. A. Faught participated in the work of the steering committee on cotton quality improvement and preservation in Memphis on June 15-16.



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## BARNARD ACTIVE IN STATE PTA WORK

Dr. W. H. Barnard, professor of education, was made a member of the state board of managers of the Parent-Teacher Association in May. He is director of the Sixth District, which includes seven counties. Dr. Barnard was instrumental in bringing the state PTA Institute here on July 28. In recognition of his work in the PTA field, Dr. Barnard will attend a national PTA Workshop at Northwestern University, August 6-27, under the sponsorship of the Mississippi PTA.

## THESES OF MS CANDIDATES IN MAY, 1950

Theses subjects of graduate students who were awarded MS degrees last May in the social sciences, including education and business administration, include: Aubie C. Davis, department of Agricultural Economics, "Seasonal Variation in Milk Production As Related to Costs and Returns in the Mississippi Section of the Memphis Milkshed;" Leslie E. Davis, department of Business Administration, "An Historical and Financial Study of the E. I. DuPont de Nemours Company;" Angelo J. Barbarino, department of Agricultural Economics, "Marketing of Fluid Milk in Mississippi;" Merrill M. Hawkins, "The Validity of Personality Adjustment Ratings of Elementary School Pupils by Their Teachers;" Lewis Jenkins, department of Agricultural Economics, "Operating Policies and Practices of Cooperative Purchasing Associations Operating in Mississippi;" Virgil Melohn, "Accreditation of Schools in Mississippi;" J. W. Reddoch, department of Business Administration, "A Case Study of the Policies of Selected Department Stores in Mississippi, 1949; and Hester S. Ware, department of History, "A Study of the Life and Works of William Alexander Percy."

## BARNARD PLANS ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE

Dr. W. H. Barnard is chairman of the planning committee which is bringing to the campus a state-wide meeting of school administrators and school board members, which convenes in November. The planning committee met at Mississippi State on July 7 to draft a program for the conference.

## ALECK TEACHES AT MISSISSIPPI SOUTHERN DURING SUMMER

Dr. Adolph Aleck, professor of Education, is spending the summer at Mississippi Southern College, where he is visiting professor of education.

## MCLENDON TEACHING AT NORTH TEXAS TEACHERS' COLLEGE

Dr. James H. McLendon, assistant professor of History, is teaching at North Texas Teachers' College, Denton, Texas, during the second summer term. Dr. McLendon was also a member of the summer staff of this school last summer. He is teaching courses in modern American history.

## BARNARD CONTINUES WORK ON MEA TEACHER EDUCATION GROUP

Continuing the work undertaken last year, the MEA Committee on Teacher Education is planning to hold a meeting on the campus in October. Dr. Barnard is chairman of the committee, which has as its objective the tackling of problems involved in the training of Mississippi teachers.

## SIXTEEN SOCIAL SCIENCE STUDENTS RECEIVE MS DEGREES IN AUGUST

Sixteen students in the Graduate School with social sciences either as majors or minors will receive degrees in August. Four of these are history majors, two are economics majors, one is an agricultural economics major, and one is a sociology major. Eight are history minors, two are economics minors, and one is a government minor.

Majors who will complete their work in August and their theses titles are: Curtis M. Cochran, who is writing on "The Political Rise of Hugh L. White and the Inauguration of the BAWI Plan;" John W. Hadskey, who is writing on "Franklin County, 1799-1860;" J. J. Hayden, Jr., who is writing on "Pass Christian, Mississippi's Oldest Resort Town;" Mrs. Annie K. Jackson, who is writing on "The Political Rise of Martin S. Conner;" Allen Pryor, who is writing on "The Development of Railroads in Mississippi Before 1860;" Charlie J. Talbert, who is writing on "Labor Organizations in the South;" Thomas E. Tramel, who is writing on "The Effects of Seasonal Production in Milk on Profits in South Mississippi;" and Ernest H. Tucker, who is writing on "Social Organization in Choctaw County, Mississippi."



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## RHODES COMPLETING FLORIDA EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

Dr. Francis Rhodes, Associate Professor of Education, is completing work on a book which he is writing jointly with Dr. L.M. Bristol, of the University of Florida, entitled, A Century of Higher Education in Florida. The book is scheduled to appear in November to celebrate the centennial of the first Florida college.

## BETTERSWORTH TO SPEAK AT INAUGURATION OF MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dr. John K. Bettersworth will be the speaker at a meeting to be held in the W.A. Evans Memorial Library in Aberdeen on August 3, at which time a Monroe County Historical Society is to be organized.

## EDITORIAL NOTE

The Summer, 1950 issue of the Social Science Bulletin completes the third volume of publication. With this number the Bulletin presents the largest issue to date. The next issue will appear in September. Material for inclusion in the September number should be in the editor's hands by September 1st. Because of financial retrenchment during the coming year, it is likely that during the months to come publication may have to be limited to a bi-monthly schedule, particularly if the ever-increasing mailing list continues to make inroads on an already meager budget. An effort is now under way to revise the mailing list in order that waste of copies may be eliminated while at the same time those who wish to revieve the Bulletin and have not been on the mailing list so far may be accomodated. It would be appreciated if you would fill out the following blank as a means of assisting us in bringing the mailing list up to date:

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